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IN THE OFFICE OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

CONFORMABLY TO ACTS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

FEBRUARY 15, 1851, & MARCH 1, 1852.

BY

SAMUEL HAZARD.

COMMENCING 1777.

VOLUME VI.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH SEVERNS & CO.
1853.

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES.

SECOND SERIES.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

OF

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EDITED BY SAMUEL HAZARD.

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1853.

Council of Safety to Delegates in Congress, 1777.

In Council of Safety,

Lancaster, 14th Nov^{r}, 1777,

Sir,

This Council is applied to by the people of the County of Westmoreland in this Commonwealth with the most alarming Complaints of Indian Depredations. The Letter of which the inclosed is a copy will give you some Idea of their present situation.

We are further informed by verbal accounts, that an Extent of 60 Miles has been evacuated to the Savages, full of Stock, Corn, Hoggs & Poultry, that they have attacked Palmer's Fort about 7 miles distant from Fort Ligonier without success; and from the information of White Eyes & other circumstances, it is feared Fort Ligonier has, by this time been attacked. There is likewise reason to fear the ravages will extend to Bedford, & along the frontier. We shall order out the militia of Bedford County, & take such other steps as may be immediately necessary for the relief of those Settlements but we find they are greatly deficient in the articles of arms, & especially ammunition & Flints. In Fort Ligonier, when our Informants left it, there was not more than 40lb of powder & 15 lb of Lead—Flints are sold at a Dollar a piece.

We must beg the assistance of Congress in these articles—arms we dare hardly ask, but ammunition & Flints we hope may be supplied by Congress both to Westmoreland & Bedford; and we must also intreat the attention of Congress to the general Defence of the Frontier. We know not the situation of Gen. Hand, his forces or his views; but we have reserved the militias of Bedford & Westmoreland, for the purpose of co-operating with him in those parts of the states, & the neighbourhood.

Mr. Thomas Galbraith will call on you in a few Days on his way to Ligonier, the supplies should be furnished to him from Carlisle to be carried from thence on Pack horses. He will explain more at

large their situation & it might not be amiss to communicate to him what may be expected from Gen. Hand, as well as what Congress shall order.

Directed,

To Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Council to Col. Smith L't of Chester Co—, 1777.

Lancaster, 14 Nov'r, 1777.

Sir,

Information from persons of character, has come to Council that Mr. John James ———, of the City of Philadelphia, a person whose uniform conversation & conduct has heretofore fixed on him, the charge of enmity to the Cause of Liberty, had lately been clandestinely sent out by General Howe, to promote the views of our invaders Such miscreants ought to be hunted, & layed hold of, by every good man, but Council are particularly bound to secure these dangerous emissaries, in order to their condign punishment.

I therefore apply to you, in order to get the person above named, & any others acting in like manner, certainly & speedily arrested. For this purpose, it will be proper to watch the meetings & especialy the Quarterly meetings of the Quakers. At these assemblies, agents of this nature will without doubt, be busy, & mischevious. Prudence directs that secrecy be used; and therefore the design of laying hold of them should be imparted with caution, & not without necessity, John James is about 35 years of age; five feet & ten inches high; slenderly made, his eyes dark, he stoops in walking, his shoulders fall greatly; & he leans sideways; his hair, for he wears no wig, is of a dark hue, & his hat very plain. He generally uses Clothes of a light drab Color, made in the "strictest Quaker fashion," being lengthy in the skirts & without pockets. But as he is a native of Chester County, he will probably be known among you, & better ascertained by your neighbours than by any description. For this man you have under cover of this Letter a warrant, tho' it is expected, that all agents of the Enemy will be industriously sought after, & apprehended by you, & many other friends of their Country, without such formalities.*

Directed.

To Col. Smith L't of Chester Co.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 342.

Robert Levers to T. Matlack, 1777.

Easton, November 15th, 1777.

Sir,

Some little time past, I had the honor to transmit to his Excellency, the President, an Examination taken before me, of Herman Zedirtz—The Honorable Mr. Hancock has since been here, and observed, that it had been his opinion this unhappy man was disordered in his senses—by two letters wrote by him since his confinement the one intended for General Washington, the other for General Howe, Copies of which I enclose, it is manifest he cannot be in his right mind—I shall be glad to receive the directions of Council, relative to this man, he having not wherewith to support himself, and now languishing in prison.

The Supplement to the Test act, and several other acts of assembly and Resolutions of the Council of Safety, woud be very acceptable here; for want of which in some instances, my Brethren the Justices & myself, are frequently at a loss how to act.

I wrote you that I had accepted an appointment from Doctor Shippen, but I found it to be so troublesome, and to interfere so much with the duty I owe the public, in the office I hold under the State as a Magistrate, that I conceived it to be right to resign the appointment and have so done.

About a Fortnight past, the contents of a small Box, intended for Bethlehem, which about last October twelve month was left in the care of Col. Sidman, of this Town was discovered—Col. Sidman in the presence of Mr. Young had the curiosity to open it, and behold! it contained Two Bottles of simple water, sealed with several hundred of very treasonable printed papers, and signed, I think Emerick—I wish I had one to send you. But Col. Sidman & Mr. Young burnt them, except a few, given to Col. Clem[t] Biddle, who happened to be in Easton at the time, who took them to Head Quarters, together with two written papers that were also in the Box. The printed Papers were calculated to excite the Germans to receive General Howe with open arms, and betray their Country. The written papers were a recommendation of the waters, as good to clear and open the Eye Sight, and a direction to use them in the same manner that the former before sent were—The Box was directed to the care of Just Johnson Tavern keeper at Bethleham, and Col. Sidman thinks the Initial Letters of the name of the Person the Box was intended for were H. V. supposed to be Mr. Vanfleck of Bethelehem.

You have enclosed, Silas Burnett's affidavit, that is a copy thereof. The last part of the affidavit, gives great reason to think that the

Box delivered by Burnett to Mr. Vanfleck, contained some of the same Papers. I have judged it necessary to send you a copy of the affidavit, that if you think proper, it may be laid before his Excellency in Council, also I sent one to Col. Biddle, as he had the above papers, that he might lay the affidavit before his Excellency General Washington. It may lead to a great discovery, and unravel the cause of the Germans generally at this time being so inactive, rather unfriendly if not inimical.

I have heard much here of a letter from Parson Duché to General Washington, if it be printed shoud be much pleased with a Sight of it, that such an infamous wretch has thrown off the mask; if not printed should esteem it a great Favor if you would procure me a copy of it.

Joseph Jenkins, Brother in Law to Mr. Gordon, has lately come to this place, and has or is about to take the Ferry of Mr. Gordon. I am totally unacquainted with his political character or connections, and as the Ferry is a Post of importance I have thought fit to hint this to you. The Ferriage over Leheigh or Delaware is now raised to the enormous price of one shilling & three pence for a man & horse. It is true every thing bears an enormous price, yet as the Waggons & Passengers are to & fro very numerous, it is a general complaint, the Ferriage is out of reason, and for this account only I have mentioned it.

Respecting the contents of Burnet's affidavit, I should be very glad to receive Council's Commands. Mr. Vanfleck has been since here, & upon Mr. Young, giving me that Information, I went to the Ferry in company with that Gentleman, and gave a strict charge to the officer of the Guard, not to let any person pass the Ferry, unless a military officer under a commission from Congress, that did not produce a certificate that he had taken the Test prescribed by y^e^ Assembly of this State; pointed out to him in particular Mr. Vanfleck, whom he well knew, and directed him, when he came to pass the Delaware, if he did not produce a certificate of having taken the Test, to bring him before me, notwithstanding, I have been informed that he did pass over, and by Col. Lebar himself, & he believes by a pass from Col. Hooper. Col. Hooper has of late become jealous of me; I am sorry for it, because I value him as a former friend. But my attachment to my Country leads me to sacrifice every consideration to what I believe to be the public good. Sometime past, almost as early as I had the Honor to hold the commission of a Magistrate, I wrote to Col. Lebar, and in very strong terms, pointed out the necessity of being very watchful at that important post, the ferry, and requested he would give strict orders that no person should pass the Delaware, who had not taken the Test, He assured me he would give such orders, & I believe he did. But they have been too faintly regarded. If the Council should be of opinion, that no person should pass that Ferry who has not taken the Test, for the supplement to the Test

act I have not seen, I hope you will please to inform me of councils determination.

I am with
great Respect Sir,
your most obedient
humble Servant
ROBERT LEVERS.

P. S. I send one of the printed papers; the written papers above sent I never saw.

Directed,
To Timothy Matlack, Esquire.

Deposition of Silas Burnet, 1777.

Northampton County } in Pennsylvania, ss. }

Be it Remembered that on the Thirteenth Day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Seven Before me Robert Levers, Esquire. one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, personally appeared Silas Burnet of Hackets Town in the County of Sussex in the State of New Jersey Waggoner, aged Forty Six Years, and upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God did depose and say that sometime in the month of October, or the month of November in the year 1776, this deponent then following the occupation of a stage driver in company with his Brother Daniel Burnet from New York to Bethlehem in the said County of Northampton, He this Deponent received from his said brother Daniel at Morris Town in New Jersey a certain small Box directed to the care of Mr. Johnson, Tavern keeper at Bethlehem, aforesaid, to be delivered to some Person a little distance from Johnson's but this deponent on his oath says he cannot now recollect the name of the Person to whom the Box was to be delivered by Mr. Johnson—That this Deponent brought the said Box in the stage Waggon in the said month of October or November, 1776, as far as Easton in the County of Northampton aforesaid, and having nothing but the said Box at that time to carry to Bethlehem, he this deponent left the same at Easton, in the care of Mr. Isaac Sidman, a Tavern keeper, where this deponent usually put up his stage. That when this deponent returned to Morris Town, to the best of his remembrance, he says, that his stage was pressed to carry the wounded & doctors to said Mr. Sidman's at Easton, and did not go to Bethlehem at which Time, he saw the Box at Mr. Sidman's, and put the same and a Tar Bucket under Mr. Sidman's Counter, and, until this day

has never since made any enquiry after it, and upon his oath declares that he is wholly ignorant of and unacquainted with every Part of the contents thereof, and this deponent further says, that he was directed by his Brother, the said Daniel Burnet, to take particular care of the said Box, and leave the same at the place where it was directed to and told this deponent that he had received the Box at the same Place, that is to say at Second River, and from the same Person that he had received all the Letters which were directed to Mr. Van Fleck at Bethlehem aforesaid, and this the deponent says was told him by his brother after he this deponent had acquainted him, that he had received at Second River a Quantity of Indigo to be delivered to Mr. Vanfleck at Bethlehem, which Indigo the deponent says he carried from Second River to one Mr. Cadimus at Watsesson in Jersey, about Five Miles from the place he received it and before he this deponent could remove it from thence the British Army had entered into that Country, and that this deponent believes that the same Person might have delivered the Box & Letters to his Brother, as delivered the Indigo to this deponent, because from what passed between him and his brother above mentioned, the Box, Letters, & Indigo all came from one House—That this deponent says at the Time he received the Indigo at Second River, he saw a man & woman whom he supposed to belong to the house from whence it came, and whom he thinks, but says he cannot speak herein with certainty because thro' length of time he cannot positively recollect, did ask him this deponent if he did deliver the Box as directed—and this deponent further says that a few weeks before he had received the aforesaid Box from his brother to be delivered at Bethlehem he likewise had received at Morris Town from his brother, another small Box something heavier than the above directed to Mr. Vanfleck at Bethlehem, and to whom this deponent says he delivered the same and this Deponent further saith not.

SILAS BURNET.

Taken & Sworn the day
& year aforesaid before me
ROBERT LEVERS.

On the said Thirteenth day of November, 1777, Before me the Subscriber Silas Burnet above mentioned appeared & upon the Holy Evangel's Swears that he will not directly or indirectly to any person or persons whatever make known or signify that he hath taken the above oath, or been examined concerning or relating to a certain Box left by him in the care of Mr. Isaac Sidman and he doth swear that if he should be asked any Questions concerning the said Box by Mr. Vanfleck of Bethlehem or any other Person at any time or place he will say that the said Box he left in the care of Mr. Sidman with whom he believes it remains and nothing farther he will say.

SILAS BURNET.

Taken the day & year
abovesaid befor eme ROBERT LEVERS.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Nov^{r} 15, 1777.

Resolved,

That an extract of General Washington's letter of the 11 instant, relative to cloathing be forthwith sent to the States of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland & Virginia, who are requested to send without delay to the army under his command, the blankets, & other articles of cloathing that may be collected agreeable to a recommendation of Congress of the 16 day of October last, to answer the pressing demands of the army, previous to the arrival of supplies of cloathing expected by Congress; & that duplicate receipts be taken for the same from the cloathier general, or his deputies respectively.

One of the receipts to be sent to the board of war.

Extract from the minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Camp near White Marsh, Nov^{r} 11, 1777.

Sir,

The condition of the army for want of cloathing & blankets, & the little prospect we have of obtaining relief, according to the information I have received from the board of war, occasions me to trouble you at this time. The mode of seizing & forcing supplies from the inhabitants, I fear would prove very inadequate to the demands, while it would certainly imbitter the minds of the people, & excite perhaps a hurtful jealousy against the army, I have had officers out for the purpose of purchasing & making voluntary collections of necessaries, & in a few instances, more coercive measures have been exercised—but all these have proved of little avail—our distresses still continue, & are becoming greater. I would therefore humbly submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it may not be expedient for them to address the several legislative & executive powers of the States on this subject, as early as possible, & in the most urgent terms. It appears to me, if they were to appoint, under the authority of Congress, proper active agents, that many necessaries might be procured, in addition to those employed on public account. Besides this, I think, the exigency of our affairs require that they should resolve on an immediate assessment to be made on the inhabitants. If these modes were adopted, considerable aids might be derived, & in a way much less exceptionable than that of seizing by the army. The assemblies in many States, I believe are now sitting, & I have

no doubt upon a requisition by Congress. but they will give attention to the measure,"

JOHN PENN TO T. MATLACK, 1777.

York Town, Novr 16th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I have not a word on the subject of news worth communicating, unless, that we have gone through the confideration, it will be sent to Lancaster to be printed as soon as possible.

Col. John Banister a friend of mine near Petersburg in Virga wrote to me to buy him three hundred pounds weight of clover seed (the red sort) & send to him, as I do not know who to apply to. I have taken the liberty to ask the favr of you to speak to a proper person to engage that quantity & give it a pass as soon as a waggon offers, I will pay the money when wanted, let me hear from you.

I am
your ob't Servt
J. PENN.

Directed.—Col. Timothy Matlack, Lancaster.
Favd by Mr. Musgrave.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO V. P. GEO. BRYAN, 1777.

York Town, Nov'r 16th, 1777.

Sir,

I acknowledge the honor of a Letter from Council with the enclosures which shall be immediately laid before Congress, and council may be assured of my most vigorous exertions on the important Business recommended and without delay advise them, in the meantime, with most respectful Salutations,

I remain
their and your
Most obt humbl Servt
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P. S. Confideration will be sent off for Lancaster to be printed.

Directed,

The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

Favoured by Mr. Robinson.

Col. Wm. Bradford to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

My last informed you that the Enemy had been Cannonading Fort Mifflin two days, and had begun again on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, they kept up a very hot Fire, and killed several of our men, and wounded many. Saturday morning we opened a Battery of two Guns near Tench Francis House, against the Somerset of 64 the Isis of 50, another 50 Gun Ship two large Frigates, their Gally when our Fleet also engaged and a most furious Fire from all sides continued till near Dark, when the Ships droped down. While the Ships & Gallys were engaged the large East India Ship that was cut down came up behind Hog Island and got close to the Fort, She with the five Batteries tore the Fort all to peices and knocked down all the ambrusers, killing many of our People and wounded more. About 12 O'Clock at night, the Officers finding it imposssible to stand it any longer, set fire to the Barracks &c., and brought of the People. Thus Fort Mifflin is fallen. What will become of our Fleet? I know not. To lay under Red Bank is impossible. If they retreat to Lads Cove a Battery or two on League Island will reach them. I suppose we shall have Ships up again to-Day. Our Fire Rafts are almost all destroyed by the Tempestous weather we have had. Our men in great want of shoes and Cloaths. We have received no more Rum than the two Hogsheads I informed in my last, tho' Crispin says he expects two more to-morrow. In the Engagements the Galleys had several men killed and 10 or 12 wounded.

I am,
Your Excellency's
most Humble Serv^{t},
WM. BRADFORD.

Sloop Speedwell, off
Red Bank, Nov^{r} 16th, 1777.

Directed.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Warrant for arrest of Prothonotary of Bedford Co., 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 17th, 1777.

Pennsylvania, ss.

To the sheriff of Bedford County Greeting.

Whereas it is made appear before the Supreme Executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon the oath of Robert Galbraith and William Parker Esquires, that Thomas Smith Esq^r being a person who has acted as Prothonotary in the County of Bedford, hath been duly required and summoned by a demand in writing, to deliver up all and singular the books, records, papers and seals belonging to or in use in the office of Prothonotary, in and for the said county of Bedford, unto the said Robert Galbraith (he the said Robert Galbraith being the person who hath been appointed by the President and this Council to succeed him the said Thomas Smith in the said office,) and that he the s^d Thomas Smith hath neglected to comply with the s^d demand, you are therefore hereby commanded to take the said Thomas Smith, and him safely keep in close custody in the common Gaol of the said county of Bedford without bail or mainprize, untill the said Robert Galbraith shall become possessed of the said books, records, papers and seals Given under my hand and sealed this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven.

GEO. BRYAN, vice-president.*

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, 17 Nov., 1777.

Sir,

The extreme want of Blankets & Clothing in General Washington's Line induced Congress on the 15 Inst.* to confirm a Resolution for calling on those States to whom, by a former Resolve, it had been recommended to collect such essential articles & to request that without delay, all that shall have been collected may be forwarded to Camp.

A Copy of the first mentioned Resolve together with a subjoined Extract from the General's Letter, dated the 11th Inst., will accompany this.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 372.

† See page 9, 10.

Your Honour will be pleased to take the necessary measures on your part for effecting the great purpose in view, enabling our distressed Soldiers to keep the Field, indeed to save many of them from perishing.

I am with very great regard,
Honorable Sir,
Your most obed^{t},
Hum^{e} Serv^{t},

HENRY LAURENS,
Presid^{t} Cong^{s}.

Directed,

To the Honble Tho. Wharton, Esquire, President, Pennsylvania.

Commissioners for Seizing Personal Estates, 1777.

Philad. County, Novem^{r} the 18th, 1777.

Sir,

As we, the subscribers, together with James Stroud and Daniel Heester, are appointed by the Honorable Council of Safety, Commissioners for the purpose of seizing on the personal Estates of such of the Inhabitants of the County of Philadelphia, as have or hereafter shall abandon their families or Habitations to Join the army of the King of great Britain &c. And as the said James Stroud refuses to serve as a Commissioner for said purposes and said Daniel Heester hath been for a considerable time past out of this State on business and it is not known when he will return, therefore, as there appears to us much business to be done by the Commissioners of this County, we request the Honorable Council, if they think proper, to add Col^{l} William Dean, Doctor Arch^{d} M^{c}Clean and Col. George Smith, to the number of Commissioners already appointed for the County of Phil^{a}, which if the Council sees proper to do, Certificates of their appointment should be sent them as soon as possible, for we have need of their services immediately.

We are Sir,
With the greatest,
Your most obedient
Humble Servant,

ROBERT LOLLER,
WILLIAM ANTES,
ARCHD. THOMSON.

P. S. If they are appointed we would be glad if you Could send the Certificates of the appointment by the Bearer of this Letter.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr, President of the Executive Council.

℔ Express.

Colonel J. Morgan to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, Nov. 18th, 1777.

Sir,

We have sent to Camp about 400 of the Militia, including officers out of the 5th and 6th Classes, under Col. Henry Spicker, and as they 5th & 6th Classes did not turn out as Generally as we Expected, we have sent orders to the Commanding officers of the Different Battalions to call upon the 7th and 8th Classes also. My son will Inform your Excellency More Particularly.

I am with great Respect,

Your Excellency's most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, President.

King's Speech to Parliament, 1777.

Baltimore, February 4th, 1778.

By Captain Moore of the schooner duke de choiseil, arrived in North Carolina, from Bourdeax, which he left in december, we have the following,

House of Lords.

King's Speech, 19th Nov.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is a great satisfaction to me that I can have recource to the wisdom and support of my parliament in this conjuncture, when the continuance of the rebellion in North America demands our most serious attention.

The powers which you have entrusted me with for the suppression

of this revolt, have been faithfully exerted, and I have a just confidence that the conduct and courage of my officers and the spirit and intrepidity of my forces both by sea and land, will under the blessing of divine providence, be attended with important success; but as I am persuaded that you will see the necessity for such further operations as the contingencies of the war and the obstinacy of the rebels may render expedient; I am for that purpose pursuing the proper measures for keeping my land forces compleat to their present establishment; and if I should have occasion to encrease them by contracting any new engagements I rely on your zeal and publick spirit to enable me to make them good. I receive repeated assurances from foreign powers of their pacific dispositions—my own cannot be doubted; but at this time when the armaments in the ports of France and Spain continue I have thought it advisable to make a considerable augmentation to my naval force, as well to keep my kingdom in a respectable state of security as to provide an adequate protection for the extensive commerce of my subjects; and as on the one hand I am determined that the peace of Europe shall not be disturbed by me, so, on the other hand, I will always be a faithful guardian of the honour of the crown of Great Britian.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. The various services which I have mentioned to you will unavoidably require large supplies, and nothing could relieve my mind from the concern which I feel for the heavy charge which they must bring on my faithful people, but the perfect conviction that they are necessary for the welfare and the essential interests of my kingdom.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I will steadily pursue the measures in which we are engaged for the establishment of that constitutional subordination which, with blessing of God, I will maintain thro' the several parts of my dominions, but I shall be ever watchful for an opportunity of putting a stop to the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war, and I shall hope that the deluded and unhappy multitude will return to their allegiance and that the remembrance of what they once enjoyed and the regret for what they now suffer under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders, will rekindle in their hearts a spirit of loyalty to their sovereign, of attachment to their mother country and that they will enable me, with the concurrence and support of my parliament, to accomplish what I shall consider as the greatest happiness of my life, and the greatest glory of my reign, the restoration of peace, order and confidence of my American Colonies.

Council to John Cox, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, 19 Nov^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed is an Extract of a Letter from M^{r} Savage, which has puzzled us not a little, as we had entrusted you with the purchase of the Land for the Salt Works & hear nothing from you neither is your name even mentioned by him. Be good enough to write us on this Head without delay, as we have hesitated to send forward the Cash to M^{r} Savage. All the Information you can possibly furnish upon this subject will be highly agreeable, as we are really at a loss: and we will procure and send forward the money to you if necessary. Disappointed and fatigued with M^{r} Savage's Delays we have at length employed the Bearer M^{r} Davidson to visit the Works & furnish us, if possible with a distinct account of matters there. We hope you will advise & assist him in the progress of his Business.

I am, &c.

Directed,

To John Cox, Esq^{r}.

℔ M^{r} Davidson.

Instructions of Council to Mr. Davison, 1777.

In Council, 19 Nov^{r}, 1777.

M^{r} Davison will proceed to the Salt Works, taking Batstow in his way where he will confer with Col. Cox, he is impowered by Council to inspect them as often as he finds it convenient to examine the Books and give such directions as he and M^{r} Savage, who is part owner, may think would be advantageous as fully as if Council were present. If he finds the quantity of Salt which those Works produce not to be sufficient for this State he is to purchase, if in his power from other Salt Works, as much as will make up the deficiency, which he is to see shall be delivered to the Waggons from each County in such proportions as shall be a return delivered to him by this Council.

M^{r} Davison will, as soon after his arrival at the Works as he can procure the proper information, let Council know what quantity of salt may be expected from the Works belonging to this State, how much is made in a week, and when the Waggons may be ordered down. Mr. Davison will take with him a sum of money as well to furnish Savage with a part as to purchase Salt for the State at other

Works or out of such Vessels as may arrive with that Article. If a purchase is made at other works it should be done with all secresy & dispatch lest forestallers should get Notice of it, and by interfering, injure the plan. Pork & Beef could be taken in and salted at the Works in exchange for salt for the use of the Galleys; but the propriety of this measure must be considered on the spot; and Mr. Davison will not omit corresponding with Council from time to time.

By order of Council.

A letter should be written to Jos. Borden, Esq., to put up for the use of our navy 200 Barrs of Pork for this purpose, Mr Savage should send him or deliver to his order 200 barrs salt.

President Wharton to Tho's Savadge.

In Council, Lancaster, Nov'r 19th, 1777.

Sir,

We wrote you by Mr. Greggs, yesterday, this we expect will be delivered by Mr. Jas. Davidson, a gentleman in whom we have great confidence, and who is so obliging as to undertake a journey to the Salt Works and will remain there so long as his presence is absolutely necessary; he has directions from Council to inspect the books and papers relating to the works as often as he pleases, and to act in behalf of this State with them as may appear to him best, Council therefore are of opinion that with his advice and assistance you will be enabled to carry on the business to better purpose than heretofore. We had reasons to believe that you would have furnished this State long since with considerable quantities of Salt, we have however been most egregiously disappointed and are almost induced them to give the matter up and pursue some other method to furnish the State with that necessary article. Council rec^{d} a letter from Lieu^{t} Sutter informing them that the men under his command belonging to Colonel Stewart's Regiment their times will be out the first day of January next, and therefore it will be proper that others be sent in their place, if we can procure the people you write for there will be no occasion to replace those of Lieutenant Sutters Company, this the Council will endeavour to do as soon as possible and forward them with all expedition. Doctor Cox was spoken to by Council to make the purchase of the Land, you mention, of Mr. Motte, and acquainted Council he had performed that business, I have written by Mr.

Davidson on the subject to Doctor Cox and shall forward the money to him as soon as I have his answer.

I am

Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, Junr., Pt.

Directed,

To Mr. Thomas Savage.

GEN. ROBERDEAU TO PRES. WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, Novr 19th, 1777.

Sir,

I am honored with your several favors of the 15th, 16th and 17th Instant to which I will reply at length if time and the extream coldness of the weather will permit, but I no sooner express my desire than I find myself limited to a few minutes. The regulation of the prices of necessaries for the army and the Quota's for each State, until better ascertained I expect will be both reported this day by Committee's. I acknowledge Shelly's affidavit come to hand which I doubt not will satisfy every Inquirer. As soon as Confideration is returned from Lancaster compared and signed, it will be instantly forwarded to the respective States, with a Letter already prepared, warmly urging the passage of it, and that Delagates be returned to Congress to confirm a Confideration by the 10th March, therefore I hope our State will have a Legislative Body together to consider this important work, if not assembled in any State it is the earnest request of the above hinted address that the Executive should immediately call them together. The alarming account of the Depredations on our western Frontier was without delay laid befor Congress, and a report brought in on too large a scale for the occasion as your letter as well as the conjecture of some Members made highly probable, General Hand as you know, was sent westward authorised by this State to call the Militia together for the very purpose now solicited by the back Inhabitants, but they, it seems were not in a humour to turn out, for this, that and a thousand Reasons which probably could not be obviated without violating the Militia Law and Discarding many Officers the Genl perhaps not excepted. An inquiry is on foot respecting the principles and conduct of Col. Morgan, but as far as it has gone we find the Genl involved in the same predicament, and that it is no other than the unreasonable Clamour of some discontented Spirits, however I am resolved to go to the bottom if it has any. But I am very apprehen-

sive the Duty self interest reigns predominent in the Western as well as every other quarter of our Land, and that a desire to enrich themselves has too much influence, and that from this principle many lean minds would stir up a dust among the Savages even at this unseasonable time. Your application I believe will end among other measures in the appointment of Commissioners out of Congress to make a full inquiry into their discontents and particularly into a hellish design of Conspiracy therefore I beg the State would immediately furnish me with the names of two Gentlemen capable of such a negotiation at Pittsburgh, that I may be ready for a nomination in case it should be necessary, for of myself I cannot fix on a suitable person. I hope the attempt of imposition in the prices of the provisions westward will be throughly sifted and exposed, for without vigour in the warmest attacks against extortion fraud &c., with w^c^ alas! our unhappy land abounds, the horrid vices threaten the ruin of our Country and the vengeance of Almighty God! from such enormities good Lord deliver us. Mr. Galbraith is refered to the board of War and will be immediately dispatched, but I cannot be more particular, I wish your intelligence of Lord Stormont may be true but it wants confirmation. I think with submission any application to Congress respecting the expense of the Stockades had better come immdiately from Council, but best of all from Gen. Hand which is most natural especially if he ordered them, I mention this because it was urged upon me by Mr. Galbraith, and at this time particularly it would be unreasonable as we are immersed in business, and I believe do at least twice as much as we were wont. The loss of Fort Mifflin is no deminution of the honor of the brave defenders, but this news is not confirmed yet I fear is too true. I am rejoiced at your mentioning an inquest you intended on the unhappy Officer you mention the want of this of late in our State among other things has much distracted my mind, a thousand things call for the particular attention of the Legislature when assembled and I wish I had time to enumerate many things that occur but this may be subject of a future letter for I am forbid adding but that I am most respectfully,

Sir

y^r^ most ob^t^

humble Sev^t^

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

P. S.—a Gentleman is just come in upon me and contradicts the taking of Fort Mifflin.

I have not even time to read this over therefore pray do not introduce me into Company in such a Disshabille.

I have not time to speak of Brown,* he is referred to you, pray take care of this friend to American Independence, and do let us be

* See Col. Rec., vol. XI, p. 345.

imposed on by such a miserable Toll. My thanks to Mr. Secretary for his attention and to Col. Bayard, I have not a moment for either of them, I beg to urge on them a trifling business formerly mentioned concerning taking a book. My respects to the President on his return, and to Council.

Council of War on board the Fleet. 1777.

In Council of War, held on board the Chatham Galley, November 14, 1777. Summoned by Commodore Hazlewood to deliberate on a Letter wrote him by his Excellency General Washington dated White Marsh, 13 Nov, 1777.

After maturely considering the contents of his Excellencys Letter, This Council are unanimously of opinion that should Fort Mifflin be evacuated & so fall into the Enemys hands it will be altogether Impracticable for our Fleet, or any of them to keep their present station, or to prevent in such case, the Enemys raising works at the aforementioned Fort Mifflin as in their present situation they are within reach of shott & shells from the Enemys Batterys on Province Island. But should such evacuation on our side & possession of that of the Enemy take place this Council are of opinion that by the batteries raised and to be raised on this the Jersey shore on the upper side of Mantua Creeks, and above that opposite to the Chevaux de frize the passage of the Enemys shipping especially those of any considerable force will be altogether obstructed, as without raisiug or removing the Chevaux de Frize it is impossible such ships can have a passage. Much indeed all depends on our keeping possession of the Jerseys, for should the Enemy prevail there it is our opinion that our fleet will be altogether annihilated as in that case our retreat & resources will be entirely cut off should we by the enemys getting possession of Fort Mifflin be obliged to retire farther up we have a sure retreat into Timber Creak, where all our fleet may shelter in safety, from whence the Galleys might in a very short time salley out, & we trust defeat any light vessels of the enemy for which the pass thro' in the Intervals between the Chevaux de frize might be practicable but those Veseels in such case must meet with many obstructions not only of Venturing thro almost impracticable passes but also exposed to the fire of three large batteries of ours on this the Jersey Shore. We of the Council are therefore unanimously of opinion that our forces keeping possession of the Jerseys depends altogether the preservation of our fleet, & consequently every expectation to be formed from its manuvres in future.

Fort Mercer ½ past Nine O'Clock, November 18, 1777.

In consequence of his Excellency Gen. Washington's orders to us to inquire in conjunction with Gen. Varnum, & the officers of Fort Mercer, & of the fleet, into the practicability of defending the Cheavaux de frize & preventing the Enemy from raising them and its being the unanimously opinion of the officers and of the Commodore & Cap[t] Robeson (the eldest continental officer in the Navy) that the fleet can be of no service when batteries are erected on Mud Island in the defence either of the River or Fort. We recommend it to the Commodore with the first favorable wind to attempt passing up the River past the City of Philada., to such place as he judge proper endeavouring in his way to destroy the Delaware Frigate by the Fire ships.

ARTH. ST. CLAIR, Maj. Gen.
(Signed) BARON DE KALB, Maj. Gen.
H. KNOX, B. G. Artillery-

To Commodore Hazlewood.

In Council of War held on board the Sloop Speedwell off Red Bank 19 Nov, 1777.

Summon'd to deliberate on the particularity of passing the City of Philada., with the Ships or Vessels of the Continental and state fleet on the River Delaware that are of too great draught of water to pass thro the Eastern or Jersey Channell.

It is the Unanimous opinion of this Council, that such an attempt is practicable with a fresh of Wind in the Morning flood, in the Morning of the 20th Inst to run such ships & Vessels up the Western Channell, but as circumstances are such that their going up cannot possibly be deferred beyond that time, as our army have evacuated Fort Mercer and of Consequence the Enemy must be possessed of that Fortress, and in course of the whole Jersey coast; it is therefore unanimously determined that such ships or Vessels as are constrain'd to go up the Western Channel, be prepared with combustible matter so as to be set instantly on fire and consumed, should the wind on the said Morning flood not be such as to render their passage up practicable. It is also unanimously determined that should the Wind & weather be such as to render impracticable the getting up in the Morning flood, the Galleys, or other smaller Vessels destined for the Eastern Channell the same preparations be made for burning such Galleys or Vessels as mention'd in regard of the rest & they accordingly set on fire in prefference of their falling into the hands of the Enemy.

Council to James Mease, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, Novem^{r} 20th, 1777.

Sir,

It is recommended by his Excellency, Genl. Washington, as well as the President of Congress to Council, That the Cloathing collected in this State for the use of the Army be immediately sent to Camp. The foregoing is a list of the names of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, to whom you will please to give directions to forward the Cloathing to your assistant or deputy at Camp, who will give two receipts for what may be delivered to him, one of which is to be sent to the Board of War.

I am &c.,

J. S. H.
Sec^{y}, Pro. Tem.

Directed,

To James Mease, Esq., Cloathier General.

President Wharton to Colonel McCallister, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, 20 Nov^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

Yours of the 12th Instant I have received & laid before Council. I have it in command to inform you that we are highly satisfied with your Proceedings & that it is the opinion of Council that you forbear calling out the two additional Classes of Militia until you shall receive further orders so to do.

I am,
Sir,
Y^{r} very hble Serv^{t},

T. W.

Directed,

To Col. McCallister, Lieu^{t} York County.

John Clarke, Jr., to Paul Zantzinger, 1777.

20th Nov^r, 1777, 8 o'clock, A. M.

Dear Zantzinger,

I rec'd your favor some time past. The acco^t of Fort Mifflin being evacuated, you have heard ere this, they canonaded it with 5 large ships, a Floating Battery cut down and several Batteries from Province and Carpenter's Islands—it lasted 12 hours without an intermission. On the 15th, at night, the Garrison left it, having first set fire to the Barracks & moved the Cannon and Stores, 'twas like a riddle before they left it—no Troops ever behaved with better firmness.

The Enemy, Lord Cornwallis, confessed day before yesterday, lost a great number of Brave fellows, & said 'twas a cursed little mud Island. On the 17th, at 12, P. M., His Lordship, with 3000 British & Hessian Troops, crossed the Schuylkill at the Middle Ferry & filed off into the the Darby Road, unnoticed, where he surprised & took a Militia Picket, in number about 30, with the loss of 1 Captain, 1 Serg^t Major, & 3 Privates killed & several wounded. He then proceeded to Chester, & embarked on the 18th on board Transports & from thence moved up to Billingsport, disembarked yesterday and proceeded to attack Red Bank, they were skirmishing yesterday at 4 P. M., between the advanced parties at Mantua Creek & Woodberry, to day I expect the matter decided. To morrow I hope Genl. Washington will attack Genl. S^r Wm. Howe, a grand scene will be opened. Potatoes sell in the City at 16s. ℔ Bushel, Beef 7s. 6d. ℔ lb, & a chicken at 10s., this I rec'd from a person out of Phila^a yesterday. The distrees of the Inhabitants exceeds any description I can give you, pray communicate this to Col. Donaldson. The Troops under his Lordship went to Jersey with the greatest reluctance, swearing if they could get away they'd never come here to fight again.

I am &c.,

JNO. CLARK, Jun^r.

P. S. I dined at Chester yesterday, caught a person supplying the enemy at the wharf with provision, the boat pushed off and about 30 lb Butter & an excellent cheese fell into my hands.

Directed.

To Paul Zantzinger, Esq^r.

Council to Col. Bradford, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 20th, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you from Head Quarters, I think under date the 15th Inst, this morning I received your favor of the 16th Inst, confirming the disagreeable account of the evacuation of Fort Mifflin, this I look upon as highly advantageous to the Enemy, it has however been defended by the Officers & Men with great bravery & resolution, the same good conduct I am afraid has not influenced the Officers & Men of our fleet, complaints has been made that several of the Gallies refused to obey the orders of the Commodore to engage the large East India Ship, which if they had, much good might have resulted from it, I wrote to the Commodore on this subject and requested him to order an immediate enquiry into the conduct of the Officers, and if found guilty I hoped they would be immediately punished. I flatter myself this step has been adopted and that every Coward & Traitor may be punished & discarded.

The destruction of the Fire Rafts, occasioned by Tempestuous Wheether, is a mortifying Circumstance to me as I expected great matters from them. I hope you will fall upon some plan to refit a part of them so as to make them Servicable the remainder of the Season, and if this is practicable I beg no pains may be spared by the Navy Board to effect it. Indeed I am certain there will not, but that every nerve will be exerted to prevent the Enemy Ships passing the Chevaux De Frize; the season is far advanced and I hope ere long their Ships must retire or be forced ashore by ice, so that I flatter myself some method will be devised to frustrate the designs of the Enemy notwithstanding the loss of Fort Mifflin.

Council is taking measures to procure Whiskey, Shoes, Stockings, &c., for the Fleet which shall be sent as soon as procured, and a supply of money shall be forwarded to you & the Commisary, Mr Crispin, very shortly, as I hope the Treasury will soon be replenished. Continue your advices and exertions for the Publick good which will greatly oblige

Sir,

your very Hum. Servant.

Directed.

Coll. Bradford of the State Navy Board.

Mittimus for Jno. Brown, 1777.

In Council of Safety,

Lancaster, November 21st, 1777.

Pennsylvania ss.

[L. S.] To the Keeper of the Common Goal of Lancaster County.

Whereas John Brown appears by his own Voluntary Confession* before us, to have aided and assisted the Enemies of this Commonwealth at open war against this State, and to have formed Combinations with them for betraying the United States into their hands. These are therefore to require and Command you to receive the said John Brown into the Common Goal of Said County and him Safely Keep there, in Close and Secure Custody, until he Shall be thence discharged by the further order of this Council or the Supreme Executive Council of this State and not otherwise.

And for your so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.

By order of Council,

THO. WHARTON, Jun., Pres^{t}.

A true Copy.

Brig. Gen'l Wayne to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Camp at White March, 22nd Novr., 1777.

Sir,

I take the liberty to suggest some hints to your Excellency which materially Concerns the Honor, safety and Consequence of a State which was held in high Esteem, but from the supineness of some and Disaffection of Others, is fast Dwindling in that Consequence which I wish to see it hold, and which I know it can maintain among the other States.

Your Militia act allowing Substitutes, and to whom is given so Enormous a bounty, will of itself in a short time reduce you more than all the other accumulated expenses of the War, and unless Immediately put a stop to, will Inevitably prevent your Continental Regiment from recruiting a single man, so that we shall take the Field the next Campaign with not one fifth part of our Quota, whilst other States are exerting every power to Complete, and will effect the filling of their Regiments.

The few Troops you have are second to none in the field, they have steped the first for Glory, they want but proper attention to sup-

* See it, Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 345-6.

port the sinking credit of this state, and to hold that Consequence in the Eyes of the World which at one day we had a right to Claim.

Let me Intreat your Excellency to devise some effectual measure for filling of your Regiments as speedily as Possible, and at all events to provide for the Clothing of your own Troops in the best and neatest manner, for however trifling the article of a neat Uniform may appear in the Eyes of some Gentlemen, yet I am Confident that it was the Chief Engredient in forming the British Army, it was that, which during the last year's Campaign in Canada, that raised the credit of the Penns^{as} so far above the Troops from the other States, and it is that which is like to give the Eastren Troops the lead the present Campaign.

Sir, it raises the men in their own Idea, it causes a laudable pride which in a Soldier is a substitute for almost every other Virtue, make a Soldier ashamed of committing a mean action it answers every purpose of Virtue.

For my own part I would sooner Risque my Life, Reputation and the fate of America at the Head of five thousand Troops neatly Uniformed than with double that number equally armed & disciplined, covered with rags and Crawling with Vermin.

As Cleanliness is ever Conducive to Health & no where more so than in an Army, by providing for your Troops you will not only endear them to you but will save more lives than all the Sons *Esculapius* aided by the whole powers of the *Materia Medica*.

I am informed that Congress have Recommended to this State to provide Blankets & other Cloathing. I had previously ordered Mr. Paul Zantzinger, of Lancaster to use every exertion to procure what Cloathing he possibly could for our poor worthy naked fellows, he Informs me by the Enclosed Letter that he has met with considerable success but is in want of a sum of money to Complete it.

Will your Excellency be kind enough to order him to be furnished with the sum he Mentions and appoint him or some other suitable person to procure cloathing for the Troops of this State, & for which you can discount with Congress.

If the Cloathing which is now providing get into the hands of the Cloathier General our proportion will be very small, and our troops deprived of these articles which they have some claim to in prefference to others, as they are provided by my Order.

I wish I may be happy enough to meet you in sentiment, as I am well convinced that much depends on your State making a respectable Appearance in the field, and by which alone it can support its Consequence.

Interim I am your Excellencies

Most Ob^{t} & very Humb^{l} Serv^{t},

ANT'Y WAYNE.

Directed.—On Publick Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., in Lancaster. Rec'd Dec. 2.

Favour'd ℔ Gen^{l} St. Clair.

Commrs. on Clothing to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Reading, November 22, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to your orders of the 8 Current, wee the Commissioners meet in order, for to consult on proper Stepts.

Members Present.

Henry Crist, Esqr., Chareman, Daniel Udree, Sec^{t}, Henry Haller, John Lower, Jacob Selier, Neathan Lewis, Finding that the buisnes Requested of us in this County is to Extensave to goe throw for the Number of Members unless we are impower'd to Nomenate proper Persons in each Township to Collect the Arteckels Mention'd in your order. We therefore beg leave to purpose to your Honourable Body that you'll take it into your Consideration and order us such Assistance as will Effectually inable us to goe throw the Buisness requested of us, In the meantime we will do all that lays in our Power.

We are Sir with Respect
Your Obedt Humb^{e} Sv^{ts},

HENRY CHRIST,
HENRY HALLER,
DAN'L UDREE,
NATHAN LEWIS,
JOHN LOWER,
JACOB SELIER.

NB. We wish to be inform'd of the Name of the Cloather General.*

Directed,

His Exellence Thomas Wharton, Jn^{r}, President att Lancaster.

Col. Wm. Bradford to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Burlington, Novemr. 22d, 1777.

My last to your Excellency was the 16th,† informing of the Evacuation of Fort Mifflin. After the enemy got Possession of that Post they were very still, firing but two or three shot. Our Fleet dropt something higher up, but not out of reach of their shot. Tuesday morning a large Fleet of ships came up to Billingsport, which proved to be General Clinton with a number of Troops from New York, which he landed at Billingsport. Various were the acc^{ts} of their

* See page 33. † Page 11.

numbers, from three to six thousand men. The Commodore and Capt. Robeson, with the Land officers, consulted, when it was tho't our Fleet could not possibly support Red Bank, as they must lay within shot of any Batteries the Enemy might erect on the wharves at Fort Mifflin. The officers of the garrison also seemed to think they must abandon the Fort soon, as they could not hold out a regular seige.* Wednesday Evening Generals Knox, St. Clair & Calm came from Head Quarters, and their opinion was, that the Fleet proceed up and endeavour to pass by the City as soon as possible. Thursday morning before Day, the Commodore ordered the 13 Galleys to go close up under Coopers Ferry, it being quite calm. They accordingly proceeded and got up without being discovered. The Continental vessels with the Province ships & shallops were ordered to take the first good wind & push by, but no wind blowing, and the Fort at Red Bank being left. On Friday morning the Brig Convention, Capt. Rice, the schooner Delaware, Capt. Eyres, with all the shallops, except two that was sent into Timber Creek to unload, with some Guard Boats that was left, got under way but was soon discovered, and a very hot fire of shot and shells from the Town & Frigate began on them. The schooner was drove ashore between the Two Ferries & set on Fire, and one of the accommodation shallops was drove ashore, the rest all got by. After the above vessels sailed, there being no wind, the Continental Brig Andora Doria, Xebechs, Repulse and Champion, sloops Race Horse & Fly, with the Province ships and two Floating Batteries, were set on Fire and burnt, which made a most terrible conflagration, to the great joy of our cruel & wicked enemies, and much to the depression of my spirits.

I am now here alone, Capt. Blewer & Cox being gone Home, but hope will be here again. Mr. Crispin is here, but has no money. I have 6000 dollars, as much as possible shall spare him. We shall be very Happy in receiving your Excellency's advice in Regard to the Fleet. The men are badly cloathed, want shoes & stockings, and fear many will desert to the Enemy.

We have now here Thirteen Galleys, the Brig Convention, and Four Shallops.

It is astonishing to think of the Precipitate retreat from Fort Mercer, they seemed determined not to see the Enemy. How General Vernam will account for this Conduct, others must judge. There was at the Fort and at Woodberry at least 1800 men. Thursday, General Huntington with 1200 men, crossed Dunk's Ferry, going down to their assistance, but were turned back yesterday by General Vernam, and are all now at Mount Holly. Yesterday General Green got over to this City with 2000 men, also on their way to Red Bank, so that had the Fort made a small shew of Resistance a relief would have come and a noble Fleet have been saved.

* See page 20.

The Troops are just marched from here, and believe are all going down to Red Bank.

I am

Your Excellency's

Most H^ble^ Serv^t^,

WM. BRADFORD.

If some Wiskey could be sent down it would be of great service.

Directed,

To His Excellency Tho^s^ Wharton, Esq^r^, President of the State of Pensylvania, at Lancaster, on Public service.

JOHN COX TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Mount Holly, Nov^r^ 23d, 1777.

Sir,

In answer to your favor of the 19th Inst.,* which I this morning Received by Mr. Davidson, I am to inform you that a Day or two after I received orders from Council relative to the purchase of Mr. Mott's Land for the use of the salt-works, I was called upon by Mr. Savage, who shewed me a number of proposals which he had just Received from Mr. Mott touching the Premises, & which I understood were in consequence of some overtures made by him to Mott sometime before, & that he had determined, provided it was agreeable to the Council, to strike with him for part of the Tract for which I had been in treaty, containing about fourteen hundred acres, & that he thought it would be most advisable that the purchase should be left intirely to him. I afterwards saw him at Cooper's Ferry on his return home, & understanding from him that it was determined on by the Council to make the purchase above mentioned, & that Mr. Mott had given him an order on his agent, Mr. Salter, for the Deeds of Conveyance relative to the Premises, I took it for granted that my interposing any further in the matter would be rather injurious, therefore entirely droped the subject, not doubting that as Mr. Savage was well acquainted with every part of the Premises, that the part he had agreed for would answer all his purposes. Mr. Savage having made the purchase I should think it would be most proper to send the money to him rather than to me. I doubt not but that Mr. Davidson will on his return be able to give you full satisfaction touching the Premises. I flatter myself that it is need-

* See page 16.

less to inform you that if I can at any Time be serviceable to Mr. Savage, as your agent, it will give particular pleasure to

Sir,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

JOHN COX.

Directed,

The Hon^le Thomas Wharton, Esq^re, President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Fav^d by Col. Matlack.

Extract of a Letter from General Washington to Congress.

Novr 23, 1777.

"It has been the unvaried custom of the enemy from the commencement of the present contest to try every artifice and device to delude the people. The message through John Brown was calculated for this end.* I am surprised M^r. Willing should suffer himself to be imposed on by such flimsy measures.† He knows that there is a plain obvious way for Gen^l & Lord Howe to communicate any proposals they wish to make to Congress without the intervention of a second & third hand. But this would not suit their views. I am sorry M^r. Brown should have been the bearer of the message, as from the character I have had of him, he is a worthy, well disposed man. It has been frequently mentioned that he had interested himself much in behalf of our prisoners, and had afforded them every relief & comfort his circumstances would allow him to give."

General John Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at White Marsh, 23d Nov., 1777.

Dear Sir,

This morning your favour of the 21st is come to hand. L^d Cornwallis is gone over to Billingsport, with a design, as we understood, to attack Red bank. General Green with his own Division, and Huntingdons Brigade is two days ago sent to counteract him, & succour the Garrison if it shou'd remain until his arrival, and Huntingdon for the same purpose marched one day sooner. The General order'd

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 346.

† See Anonymous Remarks, p. 36, also p. 45.

Glover's Brigade, on his march from N. River, to keep the Jersey side & joine G^l Green, which together with Vernum's Troops (Col. Smith's Reg^t only excepted, who are order'd to Camp for refreshment) & some Jersey Militia will render Green's Command respectable & we hope superior to that of Cornwillis', unless he is join'd by the whole of their reinforcement from New York, which to us is yet a matter of uncertainty, as is the real number taken out of Philad^a, some calling it three thousand, others two, and according to some but fifteen hundred—you know they have also three or four hundred at Billingsport.

What these movements into the Jerseys may produce is yet unknown as Cooper's Ferry in the view of a Post may at once be an object to us & to the Enemy. From the last of Vernum's letters which I have seen, the evacuation of Red Bank cou'd not be fairly infered, he said that upon a resolution of the shiping to decline any further effort (the vessel which lay detached close by Mud Island being covered by their land Batteries) the soldiery had left Red bank & strewed the area or floor of the Fort over with Gunpowder, yet in the sequel of his letter intimated that the garrison shou'd reenter as Cornwallis had not moved and he wou'd hold it until the General's farther orders should arrive—on the whole, I rather think it is evacuated. What General Green will attempt, whether a reentry by part of his Command, an attack on Cornwallis, or a possession of Cooper's Ferry, are things with the movements of the Enemy on that side, wch I have waited to inform you of. Genl. Ried is just now left me for head Quarters, where he will have the latest intelligence, has promised to write and supply the defects of my letter, your Express shall carry both.

On the subject of a visit to Philad^a, a full Council has been held, resolv'd in the negative, were not the fortified lines in the way the wishful conjecture I see on the face of yrs, wou'd have been very natural add to this, our Northern reinforcements, now here, were not then arrived & require a little rest. What is to follow must be the result of farther deliberation, which may heaven direct. Our Militia on both sides the Schuilkill may be about 2,400. One hundred of which we cannot yet arm until others are discharged. I have sent off more arms, wanting repairs, to Allentown, together with the fitted Ammunition for the two Iron Canon, Coll. Eayrs not having artillery men to work them, and the Guns themselves being rather unwieldly for the field, I have sent back to Coll. Antisses as a place of safety. By the return of the ammunition wagons I expect a parcel of repaired arms, which Coll. Henry is to send off. On Saturday last the Enemy sent a party & Burnt Mr. Dickison's House & the Light Horse Quarters, some where in that neighbourhood. On condition they shou'd advance, six hundred of my division Marched to annoy them on the wings, but their party return'd to Town, declaring that as of yesterday, they wou'd burn Jermantown, when two Divisions, Continental, moved down that way, but nothing of that sort has yet been

farther attempted. Capt[n] Whitlock is now at my Quarters, immediately from New York, where he landed about eight weeks ago, and says about two thousand of a reinforcement then landed at New York, one half were Hessians the other British, sailed with Sir James Caldwell, Commodore. That Clinton had betwixt 8 & 9 thousand men at New York & the invirons when he made the enterprize up N. River. That four thousand of these are sent to G[l] Howe, which he thinks must be in our River several days ago. That the other half Clinton retains at King's Bridge, Long & Statten Islands.

Last week one of Genl. Potters guard, consisting of about 33 men, were surprised, taken or wounded at the Blew Bell, by Cornwallis' party on their march to Chester & Billingsport.

I'm sorry to say anything of our shiping as I dont perfectly know their situation, but every tale is against them and that several of them on their way up the River were aground & Burnt, particularly the Sharebacks, floating Batterys & the Province ship! This must be owing to some unaccountable conduct, perhaps Genl. Ried's letter may be more explicit on this disagreable event. 'Tis said Coll. Smith will not accept his sword (the gift of Congress) because one hath been order'd for Hazelwood, as to the Fleet he imputes the loss of Fort Island.

I am Sir,

With great respect,

Y[r] Excellencys most humb[l] Serv[t],

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

President Wharton and Council.

Rec'd Novem. 26th.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos. Wharton, Esq[r], President of the State of Pennsyl[a], Lancaster. On the publick Service.

By return of the Express.

David Harris to President Wharton, 1777.

Sunbury, 24th November, 1777.

Sir,

I received your letter with the Sheriff's Commission H[r] inclosed, but Mr. Lodge having set off for Lancaster before your letter came to Hand, put it out of my power to have your Directions executed till ab[t] six days since, as nothing cou'd be done without his presence.

I have the pleasure to inform you (that I think) from the Appear-

ance of Matters the Court will be opened to-morrow to your satisfaction, as the People who have taken the Oath are extreamly fond of Hearing the Courts are to be opened & will I'm sure exert themselves to promote it. As I am obliged to go to camp immediately, after the business of Court is over, in order to settle with my Company, shall omit sending the Bond, as I intend taking Lancaster in my way & Delivering it myself.

And am,

With due Respect,

Your most obd^{t} Serv^{t},

DAVID HARRIS.

N. B. I am very much Hurried, preparing a Place for the Magistrates.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}, Governor &c., of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Council to Collectors of Clothing, 1777.

In Council of Safety,

Lancaster, Nov. 24th, 1777.

Gent^{n},

Your letter of 22nd* Inst. is rec'd by Council. They have no objection to your nominating such persons to assist you in Collecting the Cloathing &c. in Berks County as you may think necessary.

As the articles when collected are to be sent to Camp, you will therefore Correspond with James Mease, Esq^{r}, Clothier Genl. in this Town or ———Kemper, his deputy at Head Quarters.

Yours &c.,

A. S. H., Sec^{y}, Pro. Tem.

Directed,

To Henry Christ, Henry Haller, Danl. Udree, Nathan Lewis, John Lower & Jacob Seltzer, Reading.

* See p. 27.

William Buchanan to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 24th Novem^{r}, 1777.

Gentlemen,

From the Accounts which the Purchasing Commissarys have tranmitted to me and which I have laid before Congress, it appears, that the price fixed for wheat by the Honorable, the Council of Safety for your State, altho' sufficiently liberal, is not enough so to satisfy many avaricious People. That they consequently refuse to sell or thresh for sale any of that Article, unless their exorbitant demands are complied with. If this selfish conduct is continued the Army must inevitably want Bread very soon. Congress have therefore ordered me to Camp, there to apply for such force as may be necessary to seize and thresh wheat sufficient for the Consumption of the Troops. This manner of obtaining supplies being extreamly disagreeable I trouble you Gentlemen for your advice and Assistance in advising some mode that may prevent the necessity of using force.

I am,

Gent^{n},

Y^{r} mo. ob^{t} hble Serv^{t},

WM. BUCHANAN, C. G. of P.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President, and the Executive Council of the province Pennsylvania.

Colonel John Piper to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, Nov^{r} 24, 1777.

Sir,

I would beg leave to Enform that in Consequence of a Commission from the Supream Executive Council of this State apointing me Lieu^{t} of Bedford County, for the Purpose of Mustering and Classing the Militia of s^{d} County, notwithstanding the opposition and difficulty that atended the Buisness we Have been able to goe so farr into it that we have form'd the s^{d} Militia into Battallions and likewise into Companys and Classed, agreeable to an Act of Assembly, Pass'd for that Purpose. But from our distance and other Disadvantages Have not been able to obtain Comissions, therefore Prays that Comissions may be granted, and as our Militia Have Been and are still a Calling upon not only to Guard our own frontiers, but likwise to Escort Provisions and other Carriages to Fort Pit, and a

number of our Militia Have Been call'd upon to joyne Gennrall Hand, and as no Provision has ever Been made for the Paym^{t} or Equipm^{t} of these men, who notwithstanding these difficultys, Have Steped forth in Defence of their Country and are still Ready to apear in its Deffence. I would therefore Pray in Behalf of s^{d} County that Provision for the Pay and Equipm^{t} of these Men, who are calld into actual service, may Be Procured. These Considerations I would beg Leave to submit, in hopes your Excellancy will Grant such suplys as our necessitys require.

I have Sir,

The Honour to be y^{r}
Excellency's most obed't
And very Hble Serv^{t},

JOHN PIPER.

Directed,

To His Excellancy, Presidant of the Supream Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

(Circular.)

War Office, Nov. 25, 1777.

Sir,

I am directed to request you forthwith to transmit to the Board of War the several Acts of Assembly or Ordinances of your State for the regulation of your Militia, and that you will send from time to time any new Regulations on this subject. I am to entreat your immediate compliance with this request, and also that you will therewith send a List of the Officers appointed by your State in the Continental Army, with their respective Ranks and Dates of Commission agreeable to a former Letter from the Board. As a new Department is established by Congress for the Regulation of the Army it is hoped you will render them every assistance in their business, and particularly in the Articles herein requested.

I have the honor to be
With the greatest Respect,
Your very obedient Servant,

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., President &c., State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster. On Public Service.

War Office, Richard Peters, Sec'y.

Colonel John Piper to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 25th Nov^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

In Performing the duty required of Me as L^{t} of the County of Bedford has Been atended with Considerable Truble and Expence, which I have not been Enabl'd to Discharge By the sum of money sent to me by Council I therefore request and Hope the Council will Pleas to grant Me Sutch a Suply of Cash as to them may apear sufficient to Enable me to Pay the Sub Lieuts. for their Services with the other unavoidable Expences which have Ensu'd, and as the Militia of our Cöunty are in a great Measure Destitute of Arms and Amunition I Pray the Council to give sutch orders as they may think Proper so that we may be furnished with these very necessary articles. I will therefore submit to Council in Hopes they will please to Comply with the Request.

I have the Honour to be,
With the Greatest Esteem,
Your Excellency's most
Obed't & very Hble Serv^{t},
JOHN PIPER.

Directed,
To His Excellancy, Presidant in Council.

Anonymous.—Remarks on John Brown's Examination, 1777.

The base artifices of tyrants are not less dangerous than their arms. Of this truth the present contest is one amongst a thousand Examples. The British leaders have proved themselves alike bloody & deceitful.

The Faith of publick Proclamations & even the Words of *sacred Honour* of their chiefs in person most solemnly plighted to Individuals for the protection of their property have been violated. The miserable wretches starving in the Jails of New York & Philadelphia were tempted to enlist with the Enemy by assurances that General Washington had refused to exchange them, when in truth, Genl. How had broken the Cartel which he had settled, & had eluded every offer he had afterwards made as fast they were complied with on our part.

But above all the repeated attempts of our Enemies to seduce the people of this Country from their virtuous efforts by the false ideas

of peace & Reconciliation, which they never meant, are highly insidious & delusive.

The last year General Sullivan, then a Captive, was sent by Lord & General Howe from Long Island to Philadelphia with very plausible terms; but when a Committee of Congress waited on the British Commissioners they receded from every thing they had told him. The opportunity however was very diligently improved for the double purpose of blasting our negotiations in Europe by assurances to foreign Courts that the Quarrel was settled & of striving to debauch the minds of the Americans with the pretence that Congress was averse to peace. Thus at the very instant that their Emissaries were buzzing about in this Country that Congress refused to listen to the most reasonable Terms of accommodation, Lord Stormont was very industriously pledging his Honour to the Court of France that the Treaty was far advanced, if not finally ratified. No sooner was the World undeceived on this Head, than the attempt was renewed thro' the means of the unfortunate General Lee; but still the Commissioners now declined to pledge themseves for any thing; Nothing appears from them, Nothing in writing is sent forward, but the Commissioners were left at liberty to retract & deny every thing as soon as they had answered the ends of misleading the people here, & amusing foreign nations. And now lo! Mr. John Brown is employed to tell a ridiculous tale of peace & at the same time a large Number of Emissaries are let loose to propagate the Story thro' the state; still, Nothing appears in writing, a mere verbal *Talk* from Mr. Willing, that he (Mr. Willing,) had had a *Talk* with General Howe. Were we a Tribe of Savages this *Talk* would at least be accompanied with a Belt of Wampum; but to us not even the slightest token was vouchsafed. The sole Word of John Brown is again to gull us into a sham treaty, which is again to be spread throughout Europe to defeat our most promising hopes from that Quarter; and again to deceive & mislead our own people while his Excellency is again ready to unsay all that he is pretended to have told Mr. Willing to tell John Brown & to laugh at the Mischief he has made. Friends & Countrymen! be not deceived, if General Howe has any thing to propose to Congress the Way is open to him thro' the usual channels. He can send a Flagg of truce, he can write; he is under no necessity of sending out an obscure body like a Thief or a spy, to steal thro' our Camp without passports, without Licence. He can send a Flagg to desire General Washington to prevent the cutting of boulting Cloths. Does the settling a treaty of peace require less ceremony? No, but a Message in Writing by a Flagg of Truce is not so easily evaded. General Howe might be loth to deny his hand writing, tho' it seems he has not hesitated to deny his Words. France & Spain are likely now to take a decisive part in our Quarrel; a few months perseverance will establish our Liberty & Independance for ever. If we are not false to ourselves, if we are not driven to & fro & deceived by every idle artifice of our perfidious Enemies, trusting in providence

we may look forward with Confidence to the Hope of being speedily & forever delivered from the perfidy & tyranny of Britain, from the bloody & vindictive Malice of our cruel Enemies.*

Indorsement,

Remarks on John Brown's Examination, 1777, Nov^r 25th.

THOMAS JONES, D. C. G., TO JOHN MAGEE, AS. CO'Y, 1777.

Camp, November 25th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

The present is to advise you of the approaching calamity which I expect here every moment. Not a single barrel of flour, I declare upon my honour, have I to deliver out to the troops this morning. I believe you are best to make application immediately to the honourable president of this State. Make known to him the deplorable situation our army is in, and make no doubt but he will fall on means or other to order out two or three hundred Teams, if they were only to bring one turn here and then be dismissed, here our army is augmented by 4,000 from the Eastward. I need not point out to you the distress I labour under, for God's sake exert yourself in this affair or all's over.

I am, in haste,

Your assured Friend,

THOMAS JONES,
D. C. G of issues,
P. Tem.

Directed,

To John Magee, Esq^r, As^t Co^rs of issues, Lancaster.†

COUNCIL TO STATE NAVY BOARD, 1777.

In Council,
Lancaster, 26th Novem^r, 1777.

Gentlemen,

In consequence of a Letter from one of your Board that the Fleet of this State stood in need of Rum & Cloathing, Council has procured four Hhds. of Whiskey, 180 pr. Shoes & 180 pair of Stockings, which will be sent in two Waggons, under the care of Mr. Adam Kimme.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 345, also Archives, p 30, 36, 45, this volume.
† See page 41.

I am sorry to inform you that every kind of Cloathing is very scarce, which is the reason Council has not been able to send you more by these Waggons. I will however collect other kinds of Cloathing and forward them as soon as possible.

I am, Gent,

Your very Hum. Serv^{t}.

P. S. Since writing the above, I rec'd yours of 24th, with the disagreeable acco^{t} of the evacuating of Red Bank and destruction of part of our Fleet, least they should fall into the enemies Hands, whether this conduct is praise worthy time will discover.

Directed,

To the Members of the Penn^{a} State Navy Board.

Thomas Smith and George Woods to President Wharton, 1777.

Nov. 27, 1777.

Gentlemen:

The present situation of this County is so truly deplorable that we should be inexcusable if we delayed a moment in acquainting you with it, an Indian War is now raging around us in its utmost fury. Before you went down they had killed one man at Stony Creek, since that time they have killed five on the Mountain, over against the heads of Dunning's Creek, killed or taken three at the three springs, wounded one and kill'd some Children by Frankstown, and had they not providentially been discovered in the Night, & a party went out and fired on them, they would, in all probability, have destroyed a great part of that settlement in a few hours. A small party went out into Morrison's Cove scouting, and unfortunately divided, the Indians discovered one division and out of eight killed seven & wounded the other. In short, a day hardly passes without our hearing of some new murder, and if the People continue only a week longer to fly as they have done for a week Past, Cumberland County will be a frontier. From Morrison's, Croyl's & Friend's Coves, Dunning's Creek & one half of the Glades they are fled or forted, and for all the defence that can be made here the Indians may do almost what they please. We keep out ranging parties, in which we go out by turns; but all that we can do that way is but weak and ineffectual for our defence, because one half of the People are fled, those that remain are too busily employed in putting their families and the little of their effects that they can save and take into some place of safety, so that the whole burden falls upon a few of the Frontier Inhabitants. For those who are at a distance from danger have not as yet offered us any assistance, we are far from blaming the officers of the Militia because they have not

ordered them out, for if they had they really can be of little or no service, not only for the forgoing reasons, but also for these, not one Man in ten of them is armed, if they were armed your are sensible and take the country through there is not one fourth Man that is fit to go against Indians, and it might often happen that in a whole Class there might not be a single Person who is acquainted with the Indians ways or the woods, and if there should be a few good Men, and the rest unfit for that service, those who are fit to take the Indians in their own way could not act with the same resolution and spirit as if they were sure of being properly supported by men like themselves. The Consequence would be that the Indians, after gaining an advantage over them, would become much more daring and fearless, and drive all before them. A small number of select Men would be of more real service to guard the frontiers than six times that number of People unused to arms or the woods. It is not for us to dictate what steps ought to be taken, but some steps ought to be taken without the loss of an hour. The safety of your country, of your families, of your Property, will, we are convinced, urge you to do every thing in your Power to put the Frontiers in some state of defence. Suppose there were orders given to raise about 100 Rangers, under the Command of spirited officers, who were well acquainted with the woods and the Indians and could take them in their own way. They could be raised instantly, and we are informed there are a great number of Rifles lying in Carlisle, useless, altho' all the back Country is suffering for the want of arms. It was a fatal step that was taken last winter in leaving so many guns when the Militia came from Camp, about this place especially, and all the country near it, they are remarkably distressed for the want of Guns, for when the Men were raised for the army you know we procured every Gun that we could for their use, the country reflect hard on us now for our assiduity on those occasions, as it now deprives them of the means of defence. But this is not the only instance in which we bear reflections which are not deserved. The safety of our country then loudly called on us to send all the arms to the Camp that could be procured, and it now as loudly calls on us to entreat that we may be allowed some as soon as possible. As also some ammunition, as that which was intrusted to our care is now almost delivered out to the officers who are fortifying, and what remains of it is not fit for rifles. We need not repeat our entreaties that whatever is done may be done as soon as possible, as a day's delay may be the destruction of hundreds.

We are in haste, Gentlemen,
your most obedient, humble servants,

GEORGE WOODS,
THOMAS SMITH.

Bedford, Novr 27th, 1777.

N. B. The Bearer will forward any despatches that may be made in consequence of this.

Directed.—To Honble President in Council of Pennsylvania.

Robert Craig to Council of Safety, 1777.

Lancaster, November y^e^ 27th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

As it will give me satisfaction to be able to serve the publick to the utmost of my power in the trust you have reposed in me, I therefore beg leave to offer the following particulars to your consideration, as I have found in my tower through this place, & I make no doubt but also in the Country there is numbers of the poor, who would Cheerfully engage in making stockings at the price Stipulated, but is not able to procure wool, as there is almost none brought to market of late, therefore whether it might not be a Benefit to the service to take up wool where it can be spar'd, & put into the hands of the Poor & what price would be proper to allow, & whether it might not forward the service where Linen is collected in the Country, to have as much of it as posable made into shirts, & what price would be proper to allow, & whether It might not be an Inducement to persons to spare Nesesaries, & save trouble; if there was some cash in hand to discharge small parcels, & as I am now to enter on Business in the Country, I submit the above to your consideration, & shall call on some of the Gentlemen who Lodges at Mr. Lightner's this Evening, belonging to Council to hear your further orders,

& am with

Respect your

Humble Serv^t^

ROBERT CRAIG.

Directed,

To the Honourable Council of Safety.

Council of Safety to Congress, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, 28 Nov^r^, 1777.

Sir,

The inclosed Letter was laid before Council this Morning by Mr. Mage,* the Commissary here.

We have done, & are now doing all in our power, by press warrant & other assistance, to procure Waggons upon every call. But we cannot forbear expressing our astonishment that the Army should be in danger of starving for want of Flour, when the very neighbourhood of the camp is at this moment full of Wheat, & such ample Powers

* See page 38.

vested in the Servants of Congress to procure it. Powers which we have been very far from attempting to discourage them from exerting.

I have the

Honour to be, &c,

P. S. Besides sending out for a large number of Waggons according to the Commissary's request, Council have since come to the Resolution of which I have the Honour to inclose you a copy, in order that Congress may see what we are doing for the supply of the Army.

Directed,

To Henry Laurens, Esq., President of Congress.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, 29 Novem^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

By order of the Board of War, I have the honour of enclosing to your Excellency, a copy of a Letter from the Director General of the 12 Ins^{t} relative to the great want of Cloathing in the several Hospitals. I am to inform you, Sir, that the Board have undoubted information that part of several Townships in the vicinity of this place are notoriously disaffected to the cause of America and under the particular influence of and of Mr. Rankin who is now with the Enemy; if the Hon'ble Executive Council should think proper to vest the Board with a power of collecting Blankets and other Cloathing amongst these Persons, conformable to such Restrictions as they shall deem expedient, they will exert themselves in executing this business in such a manner as shall appear to them most prudent & expeditious. The Board, Sir, are far from being solicitious for the exercise of this power from any other principles than that of public utility, and a tender commisseration for the wants & miseries of the wounded Soldiery, with all possible Respect & regard,

I am
your Excellencys
most ob^{t} & most
humble Servant,
(By Order of the Board) JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

P. S. The Board beg leave to suggest whether arms of every kind shou'd not be taken from disaffected characters.

Directed.—On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President of the Executive Council of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Gen. Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp, White Marsh, 29th Novr, 1777.

Sir,

At the time when Ld Cornwallis was in the Jersey, Gl Washington was much disposed to attack the Enemy's Redoubts and attempt a passage into the city. The thing was deliberated in council and additional methods taken to reconoitre & examine the lines—for this purpose the Gen., went into Chester County, & from the heights of Scuilkill had a fair view of their left, which was found so strong & well finished, as was the abbettee in the intermediate space that even the most sanguine for the attack gave it up as inelligible. At any rate we cou'd not have made the effort until the 28th, and on the 27th at four in the afternoon, Cornwallis crossed over to Town with his Troops, so that that measure appears to be at an end. General Green, & our Troops on the Jersey side are recalled, & cross'd yesterday, as every intelligence agrees that Gen. Howe now no doubt wth his whole force is immediately to take the field in quest of this army a movement this, so suddenly expected that yesterday by the advice of the Gen., I ordered Gen. Potter with the better part of his Brigade to join us, as of this day which proveing wet, I wish he may not march until to morrow.

General Washington must now without loss of time take some new Position relative to the winter, the Safety & support of his army, and such as may appear the best calculated to receive, debate wth or occasionally annoy the Enemy. As an individual I am at present in favour of the other side Scuilkill, & sincerely wish the Army were now there. By a Gentn lately from New York we are informed that a reinforcement of four thousand was lately sent from that place to Gl Howe, and that Clinton had an equal number including Greencoats with himself. That about nine weeks ago he rec'd two thousand from Britain, one half Hessians who cou'd not sooner get ready to embark. I have just rec'd the Attorney Generals letter, & shall make an early enquiry for the person he points out. I hope the Assembly has put an end to the present mode of substitution if so, Sub-Lieutenants will then be unnecessary—a farther agrievance is with great justice complained of, that many persons above the age of fifty-three possess considerable, some of them large property, yet have been under no obligation, & contributed nothing—some few Females also are wealthy, shou'd not property defend itself in some form or other? On the other hand some men will be found so very poor thro' one incident or another, altho' they may be sitting on a piece of land, that they are unable to support their familys—with respect to these, it matters little of what age, but humanity & pity calls for their exemption, especially the antient, such should have some appeal, or prudent persons to aquit them. Forgive these po-

litical hints, if already attended to, (w^ch I should rather have directed to Col. Byard) but if not, please to suggest them early.

I am your

Excellencys Most

Ob^t humbl Seiv^t

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. In my last I was mistaken of the numbers of our Militia & am Corrected by the present return;

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Penna. Lancaster.

Council to Colonel Lebar, 1777.

Lancaster, Novem. 29, 1777.

Sir,

Repeated Complaints have been made to Council that many persons, inimical to our Cause, travel thro your County & Cross the Delaware, which has very Justly given great umbrage to the well affected.

I therefore request you to give orders to the Guards stationed at the Ferries, to be very alert in apprehending all such, and sending them that may be Justly suspected, to the nearest Magistrate, to be examined & dealt with according to law. I am also well assured that some persons in the Quarter Masters Department have taken the liberty to give Passes, and have ever granted them to persons who have not taken the oath of allegiance. To them you are to pay no kind of regard.

I am sir,

your very hu^ble s^t,

T. W., P.

Directed,

To Colonel Abraham Lebar, Northampton County.

Robert Morris to President Wharton, 1777.

Manheim, Nov'r 30th, 1777.

Sir,

Being desirous of rendering the public every service in my power, I have continued my attendance on Congress, & the Committees of Congress, at York, untill yesterday (notwithstanding my leave of absence), & on Friday I was appointed on a Committee with orders to repair immediately to General Washington on business of Importance. I am thus far in my way, & shall depart in the morning for Camp, where I shall be glad to execute any of your commands. This expedition puts it out of my power to wait on the Council as I intended, in hopes of obtaining John Brown's* discharge from close Confinement, for as I firmly believe him innocent in *his Intentions*, I cannot feel myself easy whilst he is confined in Goal. I beg leave, therefore, again to solicit your Excellency & the Honorable Council, to suffer him to depart from Goal on parole, & I here pledge myself for his faithfull observance of any engagements he enters into, or of such injunctions as the Council may think proper to lay him under.

As a Prisoner, he is intitled to great lenity, because he has been bountifull & attentive to the sufferings of our prisoners, whilst he was in Philad[a]; this I had from himself & others, & enclosed, I beg leave to hand you Gen[l] Washington's unsolicited testimony thereof, in an abstract of his letter to Congress, dated 23[d] Ins[t]. I call it unsolicited, because I declare to you Sir, that I never wrote a line to Gen[l] Washington or any other person on this subject, nor do I know of any other person that did, but I judge the information has been given the Gen[l] by some of the Prisoners that shared the benefits arising from a subscription which Mr. Brown & some few others procured and distributed in the New Goal.

My connections in business with Mr. Brown are well known; he was many years a faithfull servant in my employ, & is justly entitled to my Friendship. I hope, therefore, to stand excused by your Excellency & the Council for thus troubling you with my applications on his behalf, & if you will suffer Mr. Brown to come out on his parole & assign this place (with the liberty of one or two miles for exercise) for his abode untill your further pleasure; it is a retired part of the country, he can live at little expence, & I am certain his conduct & conversation will be such as cannot produce any evil consequences to the public; you will oblige me by laying this & Gen[l] Washington's letter before the Council, & they, by a complyance with my request, will lay a lasting obligation on their & your Excellency's

obed[t] h[ble] serv[t],

ROB'T MORRIS.

* See page 30, 36.

A Return of Cloathing Issued the Twelve Pennsylvania Regiments, 1777, by James Mease, Clothier General.

Issued to	Coats.	Vests.	Breeches.	Pairs Shoes.	Pairs Hose.	Shirts.	Hatts.	Blanketts.	Hunting Shirts.	Overalls.	Mitts.	Boots.
The First Regiment.	453	349	276	911	565	897	210	161		20	15	
Second "	293	390	392	829	675	861	170	280	1	174	88	
Third "	383	513	526	1007	800	1035	196	339	52	136		
Fourth "	332	450	391	929	761	953	327	312	234	229		
Fifth "	560	603	478	1119	959	1249	290	367		306		
Sixth "	298	319	275	634	480	555	142	201	20	209		
Seventh "	297	263	364	861	444	641	195	341	184	200		
Eighth "	515	795	240	1258	896	1472	250	259		291		
Ninth "	294	348	233	906	546	943	214	350	174	380		
Tenth "	312	332	330	943	634	770	244	334		115		
Eleventh "	256	302	267	745	520	680	109	289		44		
Twelfth "	335	475	255	836	605	700	45	393	9	163	69	
Col. Proctor's "	246	437	371	916	540	797	137	109	117	182		4
Col. W. Stewart's "	128	92	10	556	249	352	103	15		115		
Total,	4702	5668	4408	12450	8674	11905	2632	3750	791	2564	172	4

The Cloathing, as on the other side, Issued to the Pennsylvania Troops, from January to 23d September, 1777. There has been also a Considerable Quantity Linen issued at Head Quarters, Lancaster, & Elsewhere to the Army, and the Pennsylvania Regiments had a due proportion. Exclusively also, the State Regiment, Col. Proctors, & the 11th Regiment, drew considerably. Indeed, all were nearly clothed from the State Store.

Jacob Morgan to Council, 1777.

Reading, Decr ye 1st, 1777.

Gentlemen,

At a meeting of the Commissioners Appointed by your Honorable boddy, To collect arms, Blankets, &c., from the Inhabitants in the County of Berks, It was Deam'd Necessary In order to forward the business requir'd of said Commissary's.

1st. That the Commissoners have a power To appoint and order proper men in the Diferent Townships who will go from house to house, to Execute said Law, and bring in the Articles by them collected for said purposes.

2dly. That there be an allowance for the services done by the person Imploy'd in the above business.

3dly. That there be an order from his Excellency the president, Commanding all officers Sivil & Militarry to Assist in the Execution of the above business when Coald upon by the person appointed.

4thly. As to shoes there are none to be Goad, and the Members by you apointed are sure, that a Great number of shoes might soon be proqured, if a proper Person was apointed to imploy shoemakers & Supley them with Continental Leather, there is even now a number of prisoners of war Shoemakers who if proper steps taken, would work Lower than others, and would turn out much work,

The Field officers & Capts of Berks County Militia whose turn it is not to serve in the classes now turning out, complain that they are at great expense and loss of time in bringing down their men to Reading at the different times that the classes turn out and that their is no wages allowed them.

Commodore Hazelwood to President Wharton, 1777.

I Rec'd your Excellencies letter on the 17th wherein you inform me of the contents of a letter Genl Washington rec'd from the Commanding officer of Red Bank, Informing of the Evacuation of Fort Mifflin and of the Constant & heavy firing of the Enemy, particularly from a floating Battery which lay very near the Fort which made that Step Necessary, & have no doubt, disagreeable enough to your Excelency & to every well wisher to our cause in general. But when your Excelency is made acquainted with the proceeding & action of that day, & Sir, the Plan of action by our fleet & a view of the whole you will I am Confident give Praise & Honour, to them & not degrade our Gentlemen, whom have with the Greatest Spirit & Bravery defended the Pass of our River for Two Months altho' not

half manned, & those few men under them naked for want of Cloathes of every kind, & Blankets, Thus we have with spirit whenever the British Fleet advanced beat them back, & Drove them in every action, & they rec'd much Damage, & Cou'd the army maintain the Heights we could hold the Pass by Battery on shore, & the fleet for ever. Your Excelency may think that our force was greater than it realy was, our Force on the River was 12 Galleys, & two floating Batteries, & a few armed boats, its true that we borrowed the men to Reinforce us going to action out of the other vessels, & Captain Robinson in particular has been always ready to give every assistance with his people, & the rest of the Continental officers, the rest of the fleet Cou'd not come down below the Chevaux De Freze, & the most of our actions has been below them, I am sorry there should be any Blame on our Fleet, they have played their part well our Enemys has said it, & am sorry those we are fighting for cannot speak well of us, & as to the Gentleman that Commanded on that day to the w^st^ward, not obeying orders, I did accuse him for not doing more untill I was made acquainted with the Damage that part of the Fleet had Rec'd & saw the Floating Battery whom I order'd over to assist the Gallies in the Destroying the Enemy ship & sloop Floating Battery, & they Rec'd so much Damage before she could get over to their assistance, & had her Cables & Warps cut to pieces as fast as they Run them out, & unluckily for us, the Wind blew fresh Westerly that Day that we could not get the Fleet as soon to action, as we wished to do, for we was obliged to warp them to action The Galleys, & Floating Battery, I was carrying all to act on their Floating Battery, & was playing on her when an officer with a note from the Commanding officer came from the Fort, & woud be glad the Commodore woud Fire on the ships below, as they Gauld^d^ the Fort most. I Immediately Drew all the Fleet from her for some time when I saw their Ship Floating Battery warping up higher, I then sent the Galleys & Battery to attack her for by the note from the Fort I thought they would manage her & that they would wish us to drive down the ships which we did, & had no assistance but from a Two Gun Battery which we would have mann'd ourselves but the Artilery officers would not suffer us to do it, the action was Hott & Heavy that day. Six Battery's playing on us from the shore to Westward besides two nine inch mortars, & two Floating Batterys, & Seven Ships, & two of these Galleys that with their shot from their Batterys & ships, the River was cover'd with shot on all sides of us and cross Fire in such a manner I was surprised the Fleet never gave way, which they never did untill their ships was drove down, we had on that Day 38 men kill'd & wounded, & all the Galleys Except one much shatter'd with shot, two of which we have now on shore Reaparing here, but I make no doubt there is many whom are not Judges blame us for not destroying their Ship Battery, do they know that no part of our fleet can get in there if its not half or two thirds flood or suppose they could, can any man think that twelve open boates

could go into such a Pass under the Fire of Six Batterys, & their two Floating Batterys, & then not more than four hundred yards from them, & destroy a Ship of Twenty Four, 24 pounders besides a Sloop with three heavy cannon in her a work no part of the British fleet would attempt doing, or if they had, never could Effect'd, such an attempt, for my own part I have run every risque to do whatever our little Fleet was capable of doing. I have defended the pass so long as the army thought proper to stay on the sides of the River, what more we could do I know not, unless it was to stay untill the enemys army had got above us, & those in the City had posted themselves on Windmill Island, & at Coopers Ferry & all to fall Prisoners with the Fleet in their hands, but I think we have done much better, but if its thought there has been any neglect let us have a hearing & you will find I think that the Fleet has kept the pass, & not anything from the shore. When Gen[l] S[t] Clear, Kelb & Knox came down, myself & the oldest continental officer was sent for in Council & we then gave our opinion that we could hold the Pass of the River as well as before with the Battery we were erecting, if they could be supported with the troops, & that we thought the loss of Fort Miffl'ng was nothing, that we could Effectually hold the Pass of the River as well without it as with it. The Gener'l thought the Enemy would be on our backs before a sufficient Reainforcement could come. How then can any blame be laid on the Fleet, I have enclosed your Excelency some few papers, I now shall endeavour to give your Excelency some account of our Retreat; on the 18th of November, we had a Council with the General & officers of the Garrison, & on the same evening they gave me their Determination in writing a Copy of which you have Inclosed with some other Papers, we heard nothing more of it untill next morning when one of our officers came on board & Told me our people were leaving the Fort, we on that day brought the Galleys up into Lads Cove where we held Council which you will see the purport of, we lay two nights for a Wind to Pass the fleet, but having none it was agreed by the whole Gentlemen that the Galleys ought to pass that night, accordingly I got them under way at 3 o'clock in the morning, & about half past four they past the City without having one Shott fired at them, they had with them nine armed boats whom all got safe up about 10 o'clock same day, Captain Robinson & myself went on shore in order to see Gen[l] Vernom to know what support we could get from the Troops, but we found they had reached Hattonfield where we could expect nothing from them, I took a horse & went up to get Waggons to bring up our Stores & to dispatch the Galleys down to assist in getting the remainder of the Fleet past the City but it being late when I got up, & the Tide not answering until morning & before day I heard a firing at Town, & soon after saw one of our boats whom told me that what part of the Fleet they thought could be got bye was passed, & that the Rest was Sett on Fire agreeable to a Council held in the evening by all the Gentlemen of both Continential & State, Captain Robinson

told me he waited on the Gen^{l}., & he told him he could give him no support until he got up to Ancoakus, & saw that our Fleet must fall in their hands if they was not destroyed, we Should have sent some of the Fleet down the River if we could have been supply'd with Bread to go with tho' we have been fully Imployed here crossing & reacrossing Troops, & their Baggage & Still Complaints that they can get nothing done by the Galley men—is Every Officer in the army to Lodge Complaints To General Washington of the Fleet & the officers in it not to be heard or is the Fleet under the Command of Every officer in the army, if it is, its the first Fleet that ever was Commanded by sea officers under the Command of any army or the officers in it if it is so I believe few will Continue in it, we would wish to support our Rank & Honour which we never shall be able to do while every officer in the army is to be a Judge of our actions let our conduct be Examin'd into by men of Judgment if we have not done our duty let us suffer accordingly, I should be glad your Excelency would point out a place where the Fleet may Winter, for I dont think the River will be open long hear, I have been unwell three days, but am much better, & Shall I hope be able to go on board the fleet to-morrow I hope to hear from your Excelency soon, having not to add am,

Your Excelencys

Most obed^{t} &

Humble seru^{t}

JOHN HAZELWOOD.*

A List of the State fleet that passed the Citty.
13 Galleys,
12 Armed Boates,
Province Sloop,
Amunition Sloop,
Convention Brig,
One Acomodation Sloop,
One Provision, . do.
1 . do. Schooner,
2 Flatts with Stores, 11 Eighteen Pound Cannon,
All the Continential Vessels was burned & the remainder p^{t} of the State Fleet.
Sundry Stores & amunition Saved.

Bristol, Dec^{r} 1, 1777.

* See his letter of 29 Oct'r., on page 721, of Vol. V. giving an account of the action—A lithograghic view of the situation of the vessels from a sketch sent by the Commodore in one of his letters accompanies the above letter. See also a letter from Col. B., p. 11, of this vol.

Council to General Potter, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, 1 Dec^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

The Letter, of which the annexed is a Copy, we have just now received. The information contained in it may perhaps be worthy your attention, but you can judge, better than we can do, whether or not it may be advisable to march a Detachment of your Militia for the purpose of watching those People's Conduct. In spite of all your vigilance,

Numbers of persons pass thr^{o}' your Camp to & from Philadelphia who ought to be apprehended. We dare say you were not wanting in your Exertions to prevent this practice; but as it is possible that they have altogether escaped your observation, we take the Liberty to mention it, that you may be on your Guard. Doctor Way of Wilmington, is said to be one of those who have passed & repassed frequently. We would recommend him to your notice.

I am,

Sir

Your very

h'ble Serv^{t}.

By Order of Council.

Directed,

To General Potter.

Council to Ebenezer Cowell, 1777.

Lancaster, In Council of Safety, Dec^{r} 1, 1777.

Sir,

Council are informed that a number of arms belonging to this State now lie at Allentown & the neighbourhood unfit for service. They request you will give them a return of the number & your opinion in what time you think y^{e} can render them fit for Service, & that you will in y^{e} meantime repair them as speedily as possible, & the Council hereby authorize & appoint you to ask for & receive

them from any persons in whose hands they may be, & to direct such persons to deliver them to you.

Directed,

To Ebenezer Cowell.

Council to Peter De Haven, 1777.

In Council, Dec^{r} 1, 1777.

Sir,

Council requests that you will make a return of the number of Riffled Guns now in your hands which are fit for service, or may be made so in the course of a few days, as an order will issue for the delivery of as many as you can have ready. You will indeaver to have as great a number in good order as possible.

I am Sir,

your very

Hum. Serv^{t}

Directed

To Mr. Peter Dehaven.

Council to Board of War, 1777.

In Council of Safety,
Lancaster, 1 Dec^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

In answer to your Letter respecting the Collection of Blankets for the use of the Hospital, & of arms, we inclose you the ordinance appointing Commissioners for the Purpose, of Collecting Cloathing, &c. We can by no means consent to the Continental Board of War interposing in this business further than that. Any incentives to our Commissioners to do their Duty, from whatever Quarter, will be highly agreeable. You will observe that by the Ordinance, whatever Cloathing may be collected is ordered into the Hands of the Clothier General; yet at the same time the Troops of this State are in such a suffering Condition, that really we could wish they might be applied for their use in the first Instance.

Indorsed,

To the Board of War at York Town.

Order of Council to General Armstrong for an arrest, 1777.

In Council of Safety,
Lancaster, December 1st, 1777.

Sir,

Information being given to Council, that Doctor Shannon,* who is said to have conducted the enemy through Philadelphia County, and to have been with them in the city. is now in the county, and goes at large. This is to impower and direct you to sieze his person, and send him forthwith under proper guard to this Council.

I am Sir,
with great respect,
your very humble servant,
THOS. WHARTON, jun, Pres.

Directed,
To Major General John Armstrong, Head Quarters.

Lieutenant Patterson with Eight or ten men of Coll. Elder's Battalion, now on their way to Lancaster, are punctually to execute the above order.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.
Major Genl. of Militia.

Camp at White Marsh,
9th Decemr 1777.

Owen Jones, Jr., to Matthias Slough, 1777.

Winchester, 1 Decemr, 1777.

Dear Friend,

I rece'd your favour of the 17, under cover to Philip Bush, with 300 Dollars. Am obliged to you for forwarding so much, but at the same must inform you it will be of little or no service to me till I get the remainder. I hope I shall not count too much upon them, if I expect as much for them as I mention'd (in my letter to John Musser,) I was offer'd for them in Lebanon. I wish you to take the first opportunity of sending the remainder, or if I meet

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 387.

an opportunity of drawing I shall take that Liberty. I return you my sincere thanks for your kind offers of service.

Y^r^ ass^t^ friend,

O. JONES, j^r^.*

Please to inclose under cover to P. Bush. I wish you could find an opportunity to N. Hower, at Frederick, & desire him to forward it to me immediately; & tell him if no private hand offers to hire a person, to bring it to me & I will pay the Expence.

I inclosed Letters to your Care. Should be glad to hear whether they came to hand—it was sometime in October.

Directed,

For Mathias Slough, Merchant, In Lancaster.

Owen Jones, Jr., to Mathias Graef, 1777.

Winchester, 1 Decem^r^, 1777.

Esteemed Friend,

I recd y^r^ favour of the 19^th^. The Letter you say you sent me about two days agoe is not come to hand. I cannot advise you to send the money to me, but I am sure If you were here yourself, & as I know you to be very capable of doing business to much advantage, you would be able to lay it out in improved plantations, or on Interest to your satisfaction. And if you were to take a ride this way it might turn to profit to a Gentleman of your turn, who like to be turning the penny wherever you happen to be. I hear Whisky is down to 8s. 6d. If your business should lead you this way, I wish you may have a few spare square Dollars to change for a Friend. I am very much obliged to you for your kind offers of service.

believe me to be

your Very assured friend,

O. JONES, j^r^.

Directed,

For Mathias Graeff, In Lancaster.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 383.

Owen Jones Jr., to John Musser, 1777.

Winchester, 1 December, 1777.

Dear Friend,

This day I received your favour of the 18th, I am obliged to you for your kind offers of service, I know you are well satisfied that you may command mine, I very much wish it had been in your power to have sent the whole money because what I have got will not answer my purpose till I receive the rest, I could borrow here but I dont like it—I beg you will assist our friend Slough in getting the highest price, some of your friends in the Country would be like to purchase, I hope you will be able to get as much as I wrote you I was offered at Lebanon—If I dont hear soon from Lancaster I have some thoughts of hireing a person to come there with some more, my best wishes attend yourself & agreeable little family, I shall be happy when the day comes that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you once more in Philadelphia, but I believe it is at a Distance, you need not mind the Tea I wrote for, I have got a supply from Baltimore.

adieu,

yours,

O. JONES, Jr.

P. S. I enclosed sometime ago Letters to your Care, have you received them.

Directed,

For John Musser, In Lancaster.

Owen Jones, Jr., to Mathias Slough, 1777.

Winchester, 2 December, 1777

Dear Friend,

I wrote you yesterday since which I have drawn on you for 532 Continental Dollars in favour of Jacob Sitler, which I hope you will honor at sight as he was in some doubt he could not get it imediately on showing the Bill—I have sent by him 2 half Joes which with the others sent, I hope will be sufficient to pay this Bill and the money sent—I know you will do the best for my Interest.

I am

with real regard

your as^{d} friend

OWEN JONES, Jr.

P. S. If there should be any Ballance in your hands please to remit it to me, if on the other side please to write me.

Directed,

For Mathias Slough, Merchant In Lancaster.

Owen Jones Jr., & T. Matlack Certificates. 1777.

Winchester, 2d December, 1777.

Dear Friend,

I rec[d] your favour by Jacob Sitler, who has been so kind as to furnish me with 532 Continental Dollars, for which I have given him my draft on you, which you will please to honor.

I am

y[r] as[d] friend

OWEN JONES, Jr.

Winchester, Dec[r] 2, 1777.

532 continental Dollars.

At sight please to pay to Jacob Sitler or his order five hundred and thirty two continental Dollers, value rec[d] of him in this place in the like sum of continental Dollars, with or without further advice.

OWEN JONES, Jr.

His Excellency

The president is requested by the board of war to let Jacob Sitler have the above Draft as soon as circumstances will permit.

This is copy of a note unsigned at the bottom of the s[d] letter & draft.

T. M.

(Copy.)

The above letter dated Winchester 2 December, 1777, and draft of the same date both signed O. Jones jun[r], are true copies of originals, written on the same sheet of paper whereon a letter from Mathias Slough of Lancaster had writted to Owen Jones jun[r], dated at Lancaster, Nov[r] 17 1777, and now in my hands.

examined by me & carefully compared,

T. MATLACK, Sec[y].

Dec[r] 24, 1777.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 383.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to Captain John Hambright, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 2d December, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I wrote to Council by Major Robert Arthur the 11th last month, informing his Excelency that the first Class & part of the second, that was stationed on the frontiers of this County, that their two months was then out and that they looked to me for their pay, which I promised them as soon as it was sent me from Lancaster. I made mention of three Thousand Dollars being a sum sufficient to be sent at this time, but double the sum is little enough, as Victualing the Militia there amounts to a Greater sum than I expected. If there is no Paymaster appointed as yet for our County Militia, I would Recommend Capt. William Gray, of Bufaloe, for that office, as I know him to be an Honest man and fit for such Business, you will be pleased to mention this in Council in case the money is not sent up to me before this reaches you, or a Paymaster appointed. The People on the Frontiers of this County has got Frightened once more, by accounts Received from Westmoreland County of the Indian's doings a vast deal of mischief there, how true this is I cannot tell, but it Discourages the Inhabitants on the West branch very much as there is none of the Militia of Col. Cookson Long's Battallion assembled until I receive orders from Council, which I would be glad to know as soon as Possable.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obed^{t},

Humb^{e} Serv^{t},

SAML. HUNTER.

N. B. Remember your promise to write to me when opportunity offers.

Directed,

To Captain John Hambright, Esq^{r}, a member of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Fav'd by Cap^{t} David Harris.

Examination of John Sweeny, 1777.

Yates,

John Sweiney was a private in Capt. Thomson's Company of Col. Hazen's Regiment at the Battle of Brandywine, where he was taken prisoner by the Enemy, among others who were said to be 330. That he was confined in Wilmington in the Academy until last Thursday night, when he made his escape. That he supposes the number of the Enemy to be about 1300 at that place, greatly alarmed & very much fatigued with Duty. That their wounded after the Battle were removed to Wilmington. He heard one of the soldiers of the *Greens* say that *their* Brigade was chiefly cut off. That he knows of but one of our officers (a Lieutenant) taken prisoner, except a Capt. & Lieut., who were wounded & the latter since dead. That the Talk among them was that our people never made such a Stand before as at Germantown, that they were three times charged with fixed Bayonets but could not be broke. 1500 of ours they said were killed there & but few of theirs, but among these are Colonel and Major & a General (he thinks Agnew.)

Cochnawaga settlement in York County, Tyron Township.

H. De Haven to President Wharton, 1777.

Hummelstown, Dec^{r} 2nd, 1777.

Hon^{d} Sir,

By your letter of Yesterday I am informed that Council is desirous to know the number of Riffled Guns now at this place fit for service or that may be made so in a few days. By Enqiring of Mr. Rittenhouse I find there is about twenty-Eight, which may be made fit by Monday or Tuesday next.

For Peter DeHaven,

From Your Hum^{e} Serv^{t},

H. DE HAVEN.

Directed,

For The Hon^{ble} Thos. Wharton, J^{r}, Presid^{t} &c., in Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Dec^r 3d, 1777.

Whereas it is the uniform practice of our enemies to pursue every measure which may tend to distract, divide and delude the inhabitants of these states; to effect which purpose they have amongst other arts promoted associations for supporting the credit of the publick money struck under the authority and sanction of the King of Great Britain, which associations are evidently calculated to sap the confidence of the publick in the continental bills of credit and in those issued by the authority of the respective States and to furnish a medium for carrying on a pernicious and traiterous commerce between the enemy and the citizens of these States.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the Legislative authorities of the respective States forthwith to enact laws requiring all persons within their respective states, who may be possessed of any bills of credit struck under the sanction and authority of the King of Great Britain, on or before the nineteenth day of April, 1775, forthwith to deliver in the same to a Commissioner or Commissioners, for that purpose to be appointed in each county of the respective states; and to declare in the laws so enacted that all bills of credit under the description above mentioned. which shall not be so delivered in, within such reasonable time as the respective States shall for such purpose limit, shall thenceforth become utterly irredeemable.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'ry.

In Congress, Decr. 4th, 1777.

Whereas experience hath evidenced that the laws which have been enacted in the state of Pennsilvania, permitting the furnishing of substitutes to perform Militia duty, have not only tended to impede the march of the Militia on critical occasions, but likewise to impede the recruiting service and to encourage desertions from the Continental army.

Resolved, That it be submitted to the consideration of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania forthwith to repeal the clause in the said laws, which permits the hiring of substitutes to perform Militia duty, and in lieu thereof to impose and lay such fines on those persons who neglect or refuse to march when called forth on duty, as the said Legislature shall deem adequate to personal service, the fines so levied to be appropriated as a fund for granting

such additional bounties to Continental recruits as the Legislature may deem expedient, in order to supply the deficiencies in their quota of continental troops.

General John Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at White Marsh, 4th Decemr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Council, as I apprehend, having acquainted Messrs. Penn & Chew that they must expect to be removed to one of the Eastren States, has filled these Gentn with pain, as they say they have no acquaintance whatever in that part of the country; and by message thro' Coll. Blain, earnestly requested that I shou'd write to the Council, that they might be favour'd with being sent to a more Southern State—I presume Maryland or Virginia.

I cannot perceive any inconvenience to the publick from this degree of gratification, provided the place is not at any Port, and shou'd be obliged by the indulgence.

'Tis now five in the morning, and as my Division are on their march to meet the Enemy, as, I presume, are the whole army, I can only add that the advanced guard of the Enemy are said to be on this side Jermantown. Gratitude alone is my motive for the motion above, which perhaps I may not be able to make to-morrow.

I am in haste,

but with great respect,

your Excellency's

Most Obedt humbl Servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

I have lately wrote and enclosed a return. This may be an important day.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esqr, President of the State, Lancaster.

By Coll. Blain.

Col. John Bayard to President Wharton, 1777.

Plymoth, Decr 4th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Mr Young call'd on me with the Resolve of Council respecting Our Troops. Yesterday we waited on the General: shewed him the resolve, & had some conversation with him on the Subject. He at first apprehended Council reflected on him in the resolve, as it implied partiality in the distribution of the Cloathing. We assured Him there was no design in Council to throw the least reflection on him, but that our appointment was to enquire into the Fact, wether the Troops of this State were worse Cloathed than those from other States, & if so, the Causes why. The Genl requested we would go through the army & view the situation of the Troops in general, & then Call on the Officers of our own State to receive their account of the situation of their men. This We did, & upon examining find most of the Troops (except the New England men, who are well Cloathed,) nearly in the same situation.

There are great Complaints by the Officers against the Clothier Genl, & Genl. Wayne assures us if He had not sent out Officers to buy Cloathing of every kind, thro the Country, His Troops must have been naked, & now there are above one-third that have neither Breeches, Shoes, Stockings, Blankets, & are by that means rendered unable to do duty, or indeed keeping the Field. It is truly distressing to see these poor naked fellows encamp'd on Bleek Hills; & yet when any prospect of an action with the Enemy, these Brave men appear full of Spirits & eager for engaging. Yesterday it was expected Genl. Howe would come out. Our army was drawn out to receive him, & continued under arms till 10 o'Clock.

It has been under serious Consideration with the Council of War to go into immediate Winter Quarters, & that Lancaster & Reading should be the places. But I hope this will not be the Case. We have conversed with several Genl. Officers on this Head, & represented the horrid Consequences that must follow such a measure; indeed, nothing less, I think, but the Loss of the States of New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Shore of Maryland, & great part of this State. I find our field officers in general are violently opposed to it, & declare should such a measure be adopted they would immediately resign, as they would consider it giving up the Cause in a great measure. The Soldiery are in general willing to stay in Camp, provided they can get Cloathing.

I am happy to find the Committee from Congress at Head Quarters; had some conversation with them, & find they are opposed to the Idea of breaking up the Camp. Mr. Young & self are to meet them at the Genl's. to-day. I Expect to sett of for Lancaster friday or Saturday. We shall conclude what to do with the Cloathing

that may be collected; at present I think they should be held for the use of our own Troops—this is Genl. Wayne's Opinion; but on a further Conference, which we Expect to-day, we shall come to such conclusion as may be thought best to promote the Cause.

I shall write you further provided I should be detained this week, w^ch^ depends upon the determination of the Council respecting going into Quarters.

In the meantime,

I am

with great respect,

Dear Sir,

your Very Hble Serv^t^,

JOHN BAYARD.

Paper, Penns & Ink hard to be got here.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun^r^, President of the State or Pennsylvania.

℔ favor of Mr. Davidson.

Extract of a Letter from the Board of War to his Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania. Dated 4th December, 1777.

William Montgomery, who says he is a Native of Chester County, & Brother to Parson Montgomery of Anapolis, Maryland, & produces a Certificate from a Justice Paschall of Philadelphia, of his having taken the *affirmation* of allegiance to the the states on the 13th August last. He allows he has no scruples against taking an oath or affirmation. He lived in Philadelphia all last summer and followed trading—left Philadelphia Sunday, was two weeks, and went in a vessel belonging to the Enemy, having obtained a Pass from Major Balfour, Gen'l Howe's aide camp, thro the Interest of Abel Evans, Mr. Galloway's Clerk; he landed at Newcastle, & came thro' Newark to Lancaster, having passed thro' General Patterson's Camp. This pass was taken out of his coat sleeve, and he said he carried the certificate of his having taken the affirmation to the states, in his shoe, while among the enemy. He was at Lancaster when the Enemy Pass'd thro' Chester County, and went to Philadelphia to get out a quantity of Whiskey he had in the city, and was induced to stay there under General Howe's proclamation, that he had three hogshead of Whiskey taken from them, and has

received nothing for it; the Residue he sold for part old money and part hard money, and produces 7 Guineas an half, Jos and some silver; he was going to Staunton, in Virginia, where he has many Relations, among whom he intended to spend the Winter, having provided himself with some powder & lead for his amusement, during his stay there. That he has not taken the Oath to his Brittance Majesty, it having never been required of him; the reason of his being apprehended at first, was his having held Conversation tending to intimidate the people, and particularly one with a Mrs. White,* the landlady of an Inn, whom he told General Howe would have his Head Quarters soon at Yorktown—that our army would not be able to fight, as our men were better Runners than Fighters, "and always had the Bullets in their Backs, and such other conver-"sation which the emissaries of the Enemy are accustomed to make "of, he also appeared to be connected with.

—

War Office, y^e^ 20^th^ January, 1778.

I Certify the above Extract to be a true Copy of the original, transmitted to His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun^r^, & the Council of the State of Pennsylvania, referring the case of W^m^ Montgomery to their Determination.

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

—

Gentlemen,

As the Board of War understand, the executive authority of this state have referred the Examination & Determination, with respect to W^m^ Montgomery, to you. They have thought proper to transmit you the substance of his examination at the time he was taken up —his having a Pass from General Howe's aid de Camp, with the Deposition of Mrs. White, were Circumstances that the Board could not look over, & therefore thought no time should be lost in securing; they have in this Instance, as in others, turned the affair over to the Civil authority.

I am Gent^n^,

your humble serv^t^,

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

W^m^ Lees, Esqr., Yorktown.

Directed,

To W^m^ Lees, Frederk Eichelberger, W^m^ Scott, Esqrs., Yorktown. On public service.

* See Vol. V., p. 97.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1777.

Thursday, December 4th, 1777, A. M.

On Motion,

Resolved that this House do recommend to his Excellency, the President and Supreme Executive Council of this State, to issue a Proclamation to Dissolve the Council of Safety,* constituted by an Act of Assembly passed on the 13th day of October last, agreeable to the powers vested in the said President & Executive Council by the said Act.

Eodem Die p$^{\text{r}}$ m.

On Motion,

Ordered, that Mr. Read, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Harris, Mr. James Brown, & Mr. Irwin, be a Committee to wait on his Excellency the President, & Executive Council, with a Copy of the Resolve of this morning, respecting the Dissolution of the Council of Safety.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr., Clerk.

Resolution of Council, 1777.

In Council.

Lancaster, Dec'r 5$^{\text{th}}$, 1777.

Ordered that John Jordan be appointed Waggon master of the County of Lancaster, in the Room of Furguson McIlvaine. And he is authorized & directed to nominate a suitable number of Deputies to make out a List of Waggons in the s$^{\text{d}}$ County, & to take order that the Waggons employed from time to time in the publick service, perform their Duty in their Turn, & to proceed therein, agreeable to such Directions as he shall receive from this Council.

* This Council of Safety was dissolved by proclamation on the 6th—see it in Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 353.

Circular of Council, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, Dec'r 5, 1777.

Sir,

The great sums advanced by the Council for substitutes & for various other purposes have reduced us to the utmost Distress for Want of Money. We hoped before this time to have been reimbursed the substituted Money by the Lieutenants, & we must beg you will exert yourself with all possible Dispatch to collect the Fines from Delinquents & remit them to the Treasurer as, without this, the public service must inevitably suffer.

We must also beg you will send forward the returns of all the Militia of your County who have, from time to time, turned out in the several classes.

I am &c.,

By order of Council.

———, Esqr.

Warrant of Arrest, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 6, 1777.

Pennsylvania ss.

To the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff of Lancaster County.

Whereas it is made appear to this Council that Jacob Keller, George Adam France, David Menser, Samuel Bowman and Henry Brental, in defiance of a Warrant issued by Council to Adam Kimmel* to press two Waggons for Public Service, did by force of arms take from the said Kimmel the Horses which he had so impressed under the authority aforesaid.

You are therefore commanded to apprehend the said Keller, George Adam France, David Menser, Samuel Bowman & Henry Brental, and forthwith bring them before this Council to answer the complaint and for your so doing this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

By order of Council.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 381, 382.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Saturday December 6th 1777.

In this time of hostile invasion when the capital city of this state is in the possession of our inveterate enemies, and a considerable part of the country liable to their incursions, by which they may be enabled to procure great supplies of provisions and other necessaries, if timely measures be not taken to prevent them. And as in this time of danger, it must be evident to all men that it is highly imprudent that those provisions so essentially necessary to them, and at the same time so useful to us, should be within the reach of those incursions which either their situation or any future chance of war may enable them to make. It therefore becomes necessary that some vigorous and decisive measures should be adopted in that behalf. And as there is no time to be lost in the present emergent state of affairs, and the ordinary forms of law and civil Government cannot now be observed:—

Therefore Resolved,

That his Excellency General Washington, commander in chief of the forces of the United States of America, be impowered, and he is hereby impowered to appoint and commision any number of persons, who have taken the oath or affirmation of fidelity to this State or to the United State to buy up stock provisions and forage of what kind soever which he may think necessary for supporting the army under his command, or apprehend to be in danger of being seized by the Enemy in any place within this State.

2nd Resolved, That the General be impowered in case any of the inhabitants shall refuse to sell, to authorise the said persons to take so much of the said stock provisions forage and other articles as he shall think necessary, leaving and reserving such part thereof as shall be necessary for the use and consumption of the family.

3d Resolved, That the persons so appointed or commissioned by the General, if they do not pay at the time, shall give certificates to the persons from whom they shall take or receive any of the articles aforesaid, specifying the kind quality and quantity thereof, and signed with their names: which certificates shall entitle the owners to receive the value thereof from the commissary general of purchases.

4th Resolved also that the President or Vice President and Council be and they are hereby impowered to excuse from Militia duties every skilful cooper who shall bona fide be employed by the commisary general of purchases or any person under him, in making flour casks or pork barrels for the use of the state during the time he shall be so employed: provided, the said term extend not beyond the sixth day of February next. And they are also hereby impowered to

impower proper persons in such districts as they my think necessary, to seize and value all barrel staves, heading and hoops, that are fit for the said purpose and in the hands of persons refusing or neglecting to work them up for the purposes aforesaid with all possible dispatch.

5th That the President or Vice President and Council be and they are hereby authorised and impowered, in case they cannot otherwise procure waggons and horses, to take the most effectual measures for that purpose by impressing.

Deposition of Jacob Sittler, 1777.

Jacob Sittler, of the Town of York, in the State of Pennsylvania, being duly examined and sworn on the Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith—That on or about the Sixth of November last, being at Winchester, in the State of Virginia, he received from Owen Jones, junr,* one of the Quaker Prisrs, Fourteen half Johannes's, with directions to deliver the same to John Musser, in Lancaster; that he delivered the said half Johannes to the said John Musser, who informed him that they were intended for Matthias Slough, of Lancaster: & further this Deponent saith not.

JACOB SITTLER.

War Office, 6th Decr., 1777.
Sworn before
Joseph Nourse, D. S.

Affirmation of Frederick Schauss, 1777.

Northampton, ss.

On the sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy seven, Before me, Robert Levers, Esqr., one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, personally appeared Frederick Schauss, of the town of Easton, in the said county, one of the guard at the said town, and upon his solemn affirmation according to law, did say, that on or about the Seventeenth day of November last, he, this affirmant, then being officer of the guard at the ferry, at Easton, Mr. Henry Vanfleck, of Bethlehem, in said county, and a certain person unknown to this affirmant, and whose name he does not remember, came to the ferry in order to pass the river Delaware; that this affirment enquired if they had passes, upon which the person unknown produced a pass, but this affirmant does not remember by whom signed; that he also

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 383.

said he had a certificate that he had taken the Test, but did not produce it to this affirmant; that when he examined Mr. Henry Vanfleck,* this affirmant says that Mr. Vanfleck produced a paper signed by Mr. John Okely, of Bethlehem, and this affirmant knowing Mr. Okely not to be a magistrate, and conceiving that he held no authority in this county, did not read the contents of the paper signed by Mr. Okely and produced to this affirmant; that afterwards this affirmant says Mr. Vanfleck produced to him a pass signed by Colonel Robert Lettis Hooper, of this Town, with which this affirmant seemed satisfied; That afterwards, whilst Mr. Vanfleck and the other person went into the house of Mr. Gordon to pay the ferriage, this deponent says he felt uneasy, remembering that Mr. Levers had told him a little before, that if Mr. Vanfleck had not a certificate of having taken the test, he, this affirmant, should bring Mr. Vanfleck before him, and therefore this affirmant went into Mr. Gordons house to them, and asked them again if they had certificates from a magistrate of having taken the Test, on which the stranger replied, yes, we have; and you may take my word, and depend on it, that we are true whigs, and this affirmant says he then let them pass, and further saith not.

FREDERICK SCHAUSS.

Taken and affirmed the day and year abovesaid, before me,

ROBERT LEVERS.

ARCH'D LOCHREY TO PRES. WHARTON. 1777.

Westmoreland, y^e^ 6^th^ Decem^r^., 1777.

Honnored Sir:

I Wrote to your Excellency† by Col^l^. Shields, giving a State of the Ravages Committed by the Indians on the Inhahitants of this County; they have still Continued to Destroy and Burn Houses, Barns and Grain, as you will see more Particular in a Patation from the People to the Honnorable Assembly, Praying Relieff. (My situation Hass Been Critical; Genneral Hand required more Men than I could Possebly furnish from Two Batalions, which is all I can Pertend to Have jurisdiction over, on acc^t^ of the unsettled Boundery between this State and Virginia.) I sent One Hundred Men for the Expadition, some of them Reached the Genneral at fort Pitt, the Remainder was Stopt by His Order, at the same time the frontears of Our County Lay Expossed to the Marcy of the Savages; Not a Man on Our fruntears from Logenear to the Alegenia

* See p. 5. † See Vol. V., p. 741.

River, Except a few at fort Hand, on Continental Pay. I was Oblidged, by the Advice of the sub-lieutennants & other Principal People of the County, to adopt the Measures I Before Laide Down to your Excellency; I Requested Genneral Hands Approbation on the Plan, which he Declined, as you May see His Letter of the 18th October; if our Measures Had not been adopted, I am very Cartain there Would Not been Many Persons on the North Side the Greate Roade Now, if there Is Not Stors Laide in this Winter, In Spring they Must undoubtedly Leave the Countery; they Have no Salt to Lay Up Meat, of which there is a greate Plenty, their Grain is all Burnd & Destroyd on the North of Cunnemoch; if there is No Store of Provision for Next summer, and the People Hindred from Getting Spring Crops the Cuntery is undoubtedly Broke up. The Plan we Have addopted Has Been Put in Execution at the Expence of a few Individuals, which Cant Be Long Continued without supported by the Publick. I Have sent five Indian Scalps taken by One of our Scouting Party, Commanded by Col^{l} Barr, Col^{l} Perry, Col^{l} Smith, & Cap^{t} Kingston, Being Volentears in the Action. The Action Hapned Near Kittaning, they Retoock Six Horses the Savages Had Taken from the suffering fruntears; for Encouragement to other Partys I Hoop your Excellancy Will Make a Retaliation for these Scalps. And subscribe myself,

Honnored Sir, your

Excellancys Most Oblidged

Humble Sarv^{t}.

AR. LOCHRY.

Directed,

On Publick Sarvice—To His Excellancy, Tho^{s} Wharton. Jun^{r}, Precedent of the Shupraim Executive Councle, Lanchester.

By Col^{l} Hays.

Geo. Ross to Col. Thomas Jones, 1777.

Lancaster, 6th December, 1777.

Sir,

Notwithstanding every exertion to procure Teams, I cannot send a Sufficient number to Supply the calls of the Army from this quarter. A difficulty has now occurr'd, of which I think it my duty to inform you—it is determin'd to move all the Flour from York to this side Sasquehannah, By which all the Teams on the West of the River are employ'd, so that every supply now depends on the Teams from this County, which I am affraid are so great that I cannot Effect.

The Vast number of Teams employ'd in the militia is one great hindrance—but a still greater one is, that no person belonging to the Militia will be suffer'd to go out with their Teams, without the risk of being fin'd; nay, 'tis gone so far that one of the Lieutenants meeting a man on the road told him, at his risk, to go out with his Team, as he Might depend on being fined.

The people offer to furnish their Teams & to make their Tour of Duty for two months, if that will excuse them from the Militia. I wish this could be done Business would go on Cleverly: If 'tis not done 'twill be impossible to send on Teams fast enough. I now have a Dozen of Teams, the Horses straying about, not a driver to be had, for the reasons I have mention'd. Pray let me hear from you.

Y^r^ Very Obed^t^ Hum. Servt.

G. ROSS, D. Q. M. G.

To Col. Thomas Jones, D. C. G. (Copy.)

Col. John Armstrong to Council, 1777.

Camp White March, 7^th^ D^r^., at Night, 1777.

Sir,

The Enemy, in full Force, has now been three days on Chestnut Hill, their left near the Wissahekin & the right extending to the head of Jermantown, this position guarded on both wings was not thought so elligible as cou'd be wished for an attack on our part.

On Friday last, none of the Army (except the Horse) moved, but the Militia only intended to annoy them on the march, for this purpose General Potter, with part of his Brigade, by the way of Barren Hill Church for the Enemies Left. Gen^l^ Irwin, with six hundred of his, went on a different direction, only to send them out in small partys & give some instructions, but before he had thought proper to disperse his men they fell in with a body of the Enemy, & a warm Scirmish ensued for the space of twenty minutes, a few of ours behaved pritty well, killed & wounded some of the Enemy, amongst the latter was a Baron Knight, whos name the informer cou'd not give, but we have lost the use of our good officer & friend Gl. Irwin, three of his fingers being shot off he fell from his Horse, and none of his men gave him the least assistance, being at that time broke and runing, as did the greater part of them very early. Some of Potters had a short Scirmish, soon repulsed, but killed one & brought off his Sword. The lines maned almost day & night—The bagage, &c., being hastily sent off, some hundred of the troops have followed it under the pretext of getting necessarys.

At 12 last night the Enemy moved toward our left & the York

road, & this afternoon the general attack was expected. Gen'l Potter, with his whole Brigade & the best of our militia, was order'd to a certain woods—a part of the Enemies rear who first discover'd ours, attacked & soon dispersed them, they say by falling into bad ground —five came in wounded, & some few, I presume, are prisoners—part of Morgans light troops were also engaged & repulsed by superior numbers. Tomorrow morning, most probably, the general affair comes on, if not this night; the Express shall remain until farther. 8th, at night—this day, contrary to all expectation, is also passed over without an attack, the Enemy frequently moveing, & sometimes on different directions from left to right of our lines—Morgans Corps, strengthened by five men from each Continental Batt[n], was this afternoon to have harrassed the Enemies Wings, but at dark we had no intelligence of the effect—at five, we were informed that one of their Colums were in march toward Jermantown, whether retreating or repairing to that Village to avoid rain is yet uncertain. Since they left town we had a considerable number of prisoners & deserters. The Enemy had several waggons employed in carrying off their wounded, on Scirmish of Saturday—after which, Gen'l Irwin, & Sir James Murray, had their wounds dressed at Chesnut Hill. Yesterday, General Read, leading on some of our Militia with whom he fell in when reconoitering, had his Horse Shot thro' the head, lost one of his Pistols, Saddle & Bridle, which he was obliged to leave with the dead Horse, himself having a narrow escape. The State, I hope, will make up this loss in the first instance.

9th. In the morning.—Last night the Enemy thought proper to retreat to Philad[a], having burnt the new Rising Sun Inn, on their way—whilst they lay on Chestnut Hill they Burnt some good Houses & Barns, and have, it's said, left several familys little more than empty walls. As not the least doubt was entertain'd but that they wou'd attack us in our Encampment, the General thought it might have been imprudent in him to have left his Chosen ground to have attacked them on the high grounds which they occupied, as had he been unfortunate, no doubt wou'd in that instance incurred blame: indeed, the attack on the part of Gen'l Howe cou'd not well be doubted with the force & apparatus with which he approached & his knowledge of General Washington's situation, before he left the City, nearly equal to what it cou'd be afterwards—at any rate, had he stayed but one day longer, Gen'l Washington wou'd probably have decamp'd and risqued the great event on new ground—this was on the Carpet. I cannot shut up this without farther lamenting the loss of Gen'l Irwin to this State, and in present Circumstance to my self in particular. What the Council will do in appointing I cannot tell, but think appointments of that kind shou'd not be hastily gone into. I'm this moment call'd to Headquarters, & suppose our next movement is the subject, & perhaps the much heavier point—a dispossission of this Army for the Winter, a point

this of the utmost importance to Pennsylvania, and to which I have paid, & shall pay every degree of attention in my power.

I am, Sir, sincerely yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Richard Peters to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Dec^{r} 7th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

As I am considerably interested in the Preservation of the public Papers of this State, which are the Foundations of Titles to their Documents of Private Property, I hope you will not think me unreasonably apprehensive when I mention to you that I think they should be collected together & deposited in the most secure Places. If this has been done, I should be obliged to you to inform me of it, & that you would let me know where the Papers of the several Public Offices are secured. I have no new Reason for any Anxiety on this Score, but such Information will much conduce to my private Satisfaction. The Register General's Papers were too long left with the Gentleman who formerly executed that office, nor do I now know where they are. The Surveyor General's Papers, & I believe those of the Land Office, were sent to Lancaster, but whether they were moved back I know not. I recollect M^{r} Tilghman advertised, long since the Declaration of Independence, that the Land Office was opened, which made me fear he had possessed himself of the Papers. Gov^{r} Penn sent a considerable Number of Papers to New Castle, as I heard after they were gone, but whether the Land Office Papers were included I know not. The Prothonotory's Papers of Philad^{a} County were sent to Reading. Too much Caution as to these Matters cannot be used, & tho' I have no present Doubts of their Safety on the East side of Susquehanna, unforeseen Accidents may render them insecure. I address this Letter to you entirely in a private capacity, & beg you will favour me with the desired Information, as far as you are acquainted with the Matter, which will much oblige

your aff^{te} & most obed^{t} serv^{t},

RICHARD PETERS.

The Receivers Genl^{s} Papers I never heard of, but fear M^{r} Penn had them removed to his House on Schuylkill. The Delaware

Govern[t] have lost all their public Papers by M[r] M. Kinley's Carelessness or something else, & I am a sufferer thereby.

Directed,
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esqr., Lancaster.

Resolutions of Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania.

Monday, Dec[r] 8th, 1777, P. M.

The House resumed the Consideration of the Ordinances made by the Council of Safety, constituted by the late Act of Assembly, whereupon it was ordered,

1. That the Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, the 21st Day of October last, for taking Possession of the Effects of those who have gone over to the Enemy, & for appointing Commissioners in the several Counties for that purpose.

2. And that one other Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, the 8th day of November last, for collecting Arms, Blankets, &c., and the Warrants issued in pursuance thereof.

3. And that one other Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, on the 7th day of November last, for preventing, Ingrossing, and Forestalling.

4. And that one other Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, on the 7th day of November last, for Regulating the price of Whiskey.

5. And that one other Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, on the 25th day of October last, for the more effectual levying the monies advanced for substitutes in the Militia, and Fines due to the public for Disobedience to the Militia Laws.

6. And that one other Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, on the 25th day of October last, for appointing and authorizing an additional number of sub-Lieutenants to act in the County of Lancaster.

Be, and they are hereby declared to be in full force and virtue, until further order be taken thereon by this or some future Legislature.

And it was further ordered,

1. That a supplementary Ordinance, dated at Lancaster, the 4th day of this Instant, December, Impowering the Collectors of Arms, Blankets, & Cloathing to use Force and appoint assistants.

2. And also that a Recommendation of the said Council, dated the 5th day of November last, to the Commissary General and Quarter Master General, and their Deputies, to fix the prices of the following Articles, as below is mentioned, viz:

Wheat, 8*s*. 6*d*.; Rye, 8*s*. 6*d*.; Indian Corn, 6*s*. 6*d*. ℔ bush.; Whiskey, full proof, 8*s*. 6*d*. ℔ Gall.

Hay, best first Crop, at £7 10*s*. 0*d*. ℔ ton. Second Crop, at £6 0*s*. 0*d*. ℔ ton.

Good pork, 7 Dollars ℔ Hundred. Good Beef, 10 Dollars ℔ Hundred (sinking the fifth Hundred.)

Be, and they are hereby declared to be Repealed, and from henceforth null, void, and of no Force or Effect.

Extract from the minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, Jr., Clk of Assy.

Resolution of Board of War, 1777.

At a Board of War, 8th December, 1777.

The Board of War having had sundry intercepted Letters* laid before them from several Prisoners of the People called Quakers stationed at Winchester in the State of Virginia, in which it appears that they have kept up a Correspondence with several others of that Society in this and the neighbouring States, without previously shewing their Letters to the American Commissary of Prisoners or to any other proper Officer at that place, in the course of which Correspondence it also appears that a certain Owen Jones, one of the said Prisoners, is carrying on with sundry Persons in the Town of Lancaster, a Traffick, highly injurious to the Credit of the Continental Currency by exchanging Gold at a most extravagant Premium for paper money. And, Whereas it is represented to this Board that since the Residence of the above-mentioned Prisoners at Winchester the Confidence of the Inhabitants in that Quarter in the Currency of these States has been greatly diminished especially amongst Persons of the same Society.

Order'd.

That Owen Jones be forthwith removed under Guard to Staunton in the County of Augusta, there to be closely confined in Gaol and debarr'd the use of Pen, Ink & Paper, unless for such Purposes and on such occasions as the Lieutenant of the said County, or some person appointed by him for that purpose shall deem expedient.

That the remainder of the Prisoners sent from the State of Pennsilvania be removed under the same guard to Staunton and delivered to the County Lieutenant of Augusta, who is hereby directed to require of them a Parole of Affirmation that they will not directly or indirectly do or say anything tending to the prejudice of these states agreeable to the Form herewith transmitted, & in case of refusal the said County Lieutenant is hereby requested to confine the said Persons in some secure Building under proper Guards, & subject to the same Restrictions with Owen Jones before-mentioned.

That copies of these Orders together with the intercepted Letters from Owen Jones be transmitted to Mr. Joseph Holmes & the county

* See pages, 53–56, 79, 93, also Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 383.

Lieutenant of Augusta, who are desired to carry the above measures into immediate execution.

Extract from the Minutes
& signed by order of the Board of War.
JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Deposition respecting Prisoners at Winchester, 1777.

—— —— in the State of Pennsilvania being duly examined and sworn on the Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth & saith.

That being in the state of Virginia, at the Town of Winchester, he heard several of the Inhabitants complain heavily that since the Tories of the Quaker Society who were sent up from Philada., have been enlarged and permitted to reside at the Quaker houses in the Vicinity of the Town, the Inhabitants of that society who are numerous, have very generally refused to take the Continental currency.

(Copy) Sworn before JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

War Office, 8 Dec^{r}, 1777.

James Young to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

Colonel Byard & myself having waited on his Excellency General Washington agreeable to resolve of Council of the 28th ulto., & conferr'd with him on the subject of the cloathing of the troops of this State, and having seen most of those troops Paraded by Gen. Wayne that we might form some judgement of their wants of that necessary article, we did not Discover that they were in a worse condition than the army in General. But were informed by Gen. Wayne that was owing to the Vigilence of the Colonels & other officers of his Corps who had bought a quantity of sundry articles, Breeches, Shoes, &c., and suplyed their men with, that they had not received any cloathing from the Clothier Generals, for which reason we were of oppinion that the Collection expected to be made in this State should not be delivered to the Clothier General or his agent until the troops of the State be first suplyed. I therefore came here to know what quantity had been collected in this County. I find a quantity has already been got under the direction of Colonel Hooper, sent to Head Quar-

* This seems to be a blank form, in which no name is inserted, it is found in connection with the preceding.

ters to Col. Clement Biddle, But the persons appointed by the order of Council of the 8th Novr, have hitherto not done anything in Consequence thereof. I have endeavoured to see those Gentlemen, & have only met with Mr. Thomas Sillyman to whom I remonstrated the great necessity of their Immediate activity in that Department, he has promised me to send expresses to the other persons appointed to meet at Nazareth on Thursday the 11th Inst, where I intend to be with them & urge their Proceeding to Collect all the Cloathing in their power without delay, Mr. Sillyman apprehends there ought to be one person appointed for each township, the present Number of Eight being too few for this County, I shall request them to store in this town what they collect (which I fear will be but little) till further Orders from Council.

For other particulars of what past between his Excellency General Washington, & us in Camp, &c., I beg leave to refer the Council to Colonel Byard,*

Being with due respect

Your Excellencys most

obedt & most Humble Servt

JAS. YOUNG.

Easton, 8th December, 1777.

P. S. I am well informed that a large quantity of Leather Breeches has lately been sent through this town by Private Traders to New England and that still a quantity may be purchased in this State particularly in & about Lancaster, two days ago 200 pair were offered for sale here a £6. 10. ℔ pair.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thos. Wharton, junr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Robert Levers to Timothy Matlack, 1777.

Easton, December 8th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to the Directions I received, when last at Lancaster, from the Supreme Executive Council, that on my Return home, I shoud make Enquiry, whether or not Mr. Henry Vanfleck had certainly procured a Pass from Col. Hooper at the time he Mr. Vanfleck passed the Delaware, about three weeks ago; I have made the necessary Enquiry, and in consequence thereof, beg leave to refer

* See his letter on page 61.

Council to the enclosed affidavit—Mr. Vanfleck, as far as I can learn, has not yet repassed the Delaware, at least, at Easton.

Yesterday, and not before, I received a letter from the Honorable the Vice President, it contains, or rather refers to an Enquiry into matters of great Consequence, which the shortness of the Time does not now admit of. As soon as a proper enquiry can be made and affidavits, if necessary, taken, I will transmit the whole to you, as the Honorable the Vice President directs.

With respect to Mr. Hooper's discouraging the Inhabitants of this County to take the oath of allegiance, it has been too general and too glaring to deny; and with respect to Passes, Evidence thereof is before Council. But as to his Partiality in pressing Waggons to the distress of Whigs & the Relief of Tories, I believe the Information is ill founded. This County generally, may have borne too heavy a Burden, as to the furnishing Waggons, in comparison with other Counties in this State. Now I am speaking of Waggons, it is necessary I shoud mention, that last Friday Mr. Hooper applied to me, as one of the Magistrates, for assistance to furnish Twelve Waggons to go to Danbury in New England, for Hospital Stores; upon a demand for the said Waggons on Col. Hooper from Dr. Thomas Bond, Ass. D. G. of y^e^ Hospitals, I wrote to several of the Justices immediately, and yesterday we met, and the Justices are of opinion, that as no Instructions have been received from Council, whereby they are authorized to give Orders for impressing Waggons to go out of the State of Pennsylvania, they do not think themselves justifiable, shoud they empower Mr. Creider, Waggon Master General, to impress Waggons for this Purpose, without having first obtained an express Order from Council. The Justices desire that Council woud be pleased to give them some general Instructions relative to Waggons, as by the last from Council, the Justices were directed, that an application should be first made to Council from the D. Q. M. Genl., Col. Hooper. But when I was at Lancaster the first time, His Excellency the President, wrote by me to Col. Hooper, which that Gentleman shewed me, wherein he was instructed, if my memory serves me, whenever Waggons were wanted from this County, to apply to the Magistrates, and thro them to the Waggon Master General, and this I apprehend was permitted by Council, that there might be no occasion of delay; and this Order I think, from Council to Mr. Hooper, was peremptory. Nevertheless, this application for Waggons to bring Military Stores, is the first that I know to have been made to the Magistrates, nor do I apprehend this woud have been made, if a difficulty had not arisen in the way of Mr. Hooper; for when Mr. Creider, the Waggon Master General, was dispatched to furnish the Waggons, the Inhabitants called on refused to go, alledging the Journey was too far at this Season of the Year, and that they woud not go unless they were pressed, and thus were the Magistrates called in.

The Vice President in his Letter mentions Mr. Creider, as a Person

from whom Information may be received. But, altho in consequence of the Order of Council which first came to the magistrates here, to form the Waggons in this County into Brigades, Mr. Creider was appointed by the Justices, Waggon Master General, he has constantly acted under Mr. Hooper as D. Q. M. Gen^{l}, and as I have said before, most frequently, without application to the magistrates, and I do apprehend no Information can be received from him. I do not mean to suggest any thing against Mr. Creider, for I believe him to be an honest, worthy man, and woud willingly do that which is right.

It has been matter of real Grief to me, to see men holding offices of Profit in any department in the United States, whose Hearts do not appear to be warmed with Zeal for the American Cause. When men speak against or object to taking the Test, or oath of allegiance to this State, they do not consider the almost irreparable Injury done to the American Cause. It is such a Stumbling Block to the Ignorant as hardly can be conceived. This County is a manifest Proof thereof. The Test is the Cry, but the Truth is, tho it dare not be spoken, Supposing Glorious Independency is the Great Offence. I have looked on the Vice President's Letter as a Call on me, to enquire and make Report, what Persons there may be in this County, holding offices under Congress, or rather, under those appointed by them, who have not either taken the oath of allegiance to this State, or any other. And first Mr. Hooper. Again, Henry Fullert Esquire, an Inhabitant of this Town, who by Council was appointed One of the Magistrates for this County, and declined serving, has been appointed thro the Influence of Col. Joseph Dean & Mr. Hooper, by Col. Patton, of or near Reading, a deputy Commissary of Purchases for this County. I have myself called on Mr. Fullert, to know if he had taken the Test, he has not. His Influence has been great in this County, In Excuse for taking it, he says that Col. Patton promised him, to send the oath prescribed by Congress, and the oath of office, that he had frequently wrote to Col. Patton, to desire him to send them, that he might qualify. Yesterday I mentioned this matter to Col. Dean, gave it as my opinion Mr. Fullert was not to be justified, especially as he held a lucrative Post under the States, in neglecting or refusing to take the oath of allegiance to this State. Col. Dean replied, that to his Knowledge, Mr. Fullert had wrote several times to Col. Patton, desiring him to send the allegiance oath directed by Congress, & oath of office, that he might take them. Last Night I again mentioned it to Mr. Fullert, informed him that I looked on myself called upon to report to Council such Persons as held offices, who hitherto had not given sufficient Security to the Public, by swearing allegiance to the States. He still persisted in the Excuse, and to my Surprise, tho he was at my house to day, neglects to take the Test. There is likewise at Bethlehem, Mr. John Okely, an assist^{t} Quarter Master, Mr. John Dick, a Commissary of Issues, and here at Easton, Mr. Richard Bakehouse, who are under

no Solemn Tie of allegiance to the States, unless an oath of allegiance has been taken very lately indeed.

You will excuse my troubling you with so long a detail, but I judged the matters therein contained necessary to be known, and in part demanded of me from the Vice President's Letter. If Mr. Dunlap has any printed Certificates respecting the oath of allegiance, I will be glad you will take the trouble to desire him to send me Two Hundred. I am

with the greatest Respect,

Sir,

your most obedient

humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Dec^{r} 9, 1777.

Resolved,

That the letters from Owen Jones jun^{r}* a prisoner of the commonwealth of Pensylvania confined at Winchester in Virginia, to sundry persons at Lancaster be transmitted by the board of war to the president of the supreme executive Council of the State of Pensylvania, & that it be recommended to the executive authority of the said State to take such measures on the premises as they in their wisdom shall deem meet.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Board of War to Col. B. Flowers, 1777.

War Office, Dec^{r} 9, 1777.

Sir,

If there are any Rifle Guns in the Stores deliver them to the order of Hon^{ble} The President & Council of this State to be repaired & sent to the Frontiers for the use of the Inhabitants for their Defence against the Indians. You are not to exceed the number of one hundred

* See page 53–56, 74, 93.

———but this is imagined to be more than you have in your Possession as a number were ordered from Council to the Lieut's of Bedford & Westmoreland Counties.

Your

h^ble^ Serv^t^

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order of the Board.

Directed,
To Col. B. Flower, C. G. M. S.

Mittimus to Sheriff of Lancaster, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December the 9th, 1777.

Whereas by the Confession of Jacob Killer, George Adam France, David Minser, Samuel Bowman and Henry Brental, all of this county, it appears to this council, that they on Saturday the sixth day of this present month, did in a violent manner assault & take from a certain Adam Kimmel* divers horses (which had been impressed for the service of that state by the said Adam Kimmel, in pursuance of a warrant issued for that purpose by this council) *to the great injury of the publick service* & in subversion of the good order & regulations that have been made & pursued for the safety of the Country.

You are therefore &c., to receive into your Custody the s^d^ J. K. &c., & them safely keep in the Common Goal of your County until further order be taken in the premises by the Council or any two of the members thereof, for which this shall be your Warrant.

To High Sherif of the County of Lancaster.

President Wharton to Col. William Bradford, 1777.

In Council,
Lancaster, December 9th, 1777.

Sir,

I rec^d^ your letter of the 4th Nov^r^,‡ which I suppose should be Dec^r^—and laid it before Council. I am truly sorry that we were under the necessity to burn any part of our Fleet; this and the evacuation of Red bank has given the Enemy great advantage over us. However, it is folly to repine, and I hope in the end It will be found to be of no real advantage to them.

* See page 65. † See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 383.
‡ See Vol. V., p. 740.

I had little doubt of furnishing the Fleet with whiskey from hence some time since, for which purpose I employed Mr Adam Kimmel to procure four Hdgs. and impress two waggons to carry them, and 180 pairs of Shoes and stockings for the seamen, but he has met with uncommon delay in procuring waggons. I hope, however they will soon be with you.

At present, we have little or no money in the Treasury, but expect it will be replenished in a few days, have therefore kept the paymaster, Mr Bradfd, until some can be signed. Some censures have been past part on our fleet which I have now to believe they do not deserve. A letter which I recd from the Commodore, and if I have time shall answer by this opportunity, explains some matters very fully, and convinces me that if the pass has been lost thro any mismanagement it does not lay with the officers and men of our fleet.

I am, sir,

Your very hnmble servt,

T. WHARTON, junr.

P. S. The commodore is desirous to know where the Fleet is to be layed up during the winter season—of this he and the state navy board are the best Judges. I think the wharfs below Trenton will be convenient.

Directed,

To Colo Wm Bradford.

State of the Treasury, 1777.

Total to be received of Assembly	£200,000	
Ditto of Congress	75,000	
		£275,000
Besides this recd. of Congress in this year nearly		£105,000
Received at this time of Assembly	£166,890	
Ditto of Congress	51,888	
		£218,778
Orders of Assembly paid	£6,582	
Ditto of Council	£222,010	
		£228,592
Remains unexpend of the Sum total to be received Decemr 10th, 1777.		£46,408

Francis L. Lee to Timothy Matlack, 1777.

York Town, Dec^{r} 10, 1777.*

Sir,

The last summer a Proposal was laid before your Assembly, from Virginia, for settling the Southern boundery between the two States.

The Delegates of Virginia received an answer; but it has miscarried in its passage, and it is now wanted by the Assembly. You will therefore much oblige me if you will procure a certified Copy & send it to me by the first opportunity.

I am, Sir,

Your very h^{ble} Servant,

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Dec^{r} 10, 1777.

Whereas it is essentially necessary that magazines should be seasonably provided in the interior part of the country, & many inhabitants through motives of avarice or dissatisfaction refuse to thresh out their grain;

Resolved:

That it be earnestly recommended to the legislature of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania forthwith to enact a law requiring all persons within their State, at the distance of 70 miles & upwards from general Washington's head quarters, & below the blue mountains, to thresh out their wheat & other grain within as short a period of time as the said legislature shall deem sufficient for that purpose, & in case of failure to subject the same to seizure, by the commissaries & quarter masters of the American army, to be paid for at the price of straw only; excepting from such penalty such families only, who from the absence of the master, sons or servants in the service of their country, can give good proof that their compliance with the said law was not practicable.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.†

* See Vol. V. p. 413.

† See proclamation of Gen. Washington, to same purpose, December 20, 1777.

Gen. Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

I received your Excellency's letter of the first instant, I was then on the other side of Schuylkill, and was drove about from place to place, that I had not time to Answer it, I this day returnd to this County again, and hope there will be Troops sufficient here in a day or two to keep all the Tories in this County in fear, if not in order, I expect the Army to march to-morrow if it did not to day, Dr. Way has been in Phila. twice, I have a good oppinion of the Doctor, & know he has done service to us in some Instances, & has got some of our friends released, he must Trim it a little or he cannot be of use to us. I need not say any thing about Gen. Howe's glorious Expedition against our Army as the particulars have reached you before this, however I can't but observe that their mighty boasting may justly be compared to a sudden blast of wind. The have return'd to Phila., and Gen. Washington, is not drove over the Susquehanah, their departure was precipitate the left their Salt & Salt pork behind them, our principal loss was our Worthy General Irvine, we must have a Winters Campaign, I hope the Council will appoint some more Brigadiers, that I may for some time be Relieved, I am convinced the Council will not expect that I can stand this Winter campaign also, in the last years I have been but three weeks at home, it is time I should go to see my family, my affairs calls loudly for it, I believe fighting is over for some time, I am willing to do any thing in my power to serve my Country, but it is necessary that I should have a little rest.

I am

with great respect

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

JAS. POTTER.

P. S. We have in the gaurd one meat of a vessel, 5 Sealers, one British soldeer, prisners, we took two Barges at the same time.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., In Lancaster.

Camp, Chester County Dec., 11, 1777.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, 12th, Dec., 1777,

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing a Letter from Mrs. Dorcas Montgomery, who came out of Phila., to solicit permission to go to Europe with her Child that is in a very weak state of Health, & recommended by her Docters to take a sea Voyage which they conceive will have a very salutary effect. Mrs. Montgomery thinks it prudant to make this application, that she may not be viewed in the light of a Deserter from her Country, on the contrary she has proved herself a friend by the Loans of Money to the Continent. She is desirous of having some assurance that her Fortune may not be injured. The Board, Sir, conceive that no ill Consequences can arise from her being indulged, but as this is properly a State affair, the Board beg leave to refer to your Excellency.

I have the honor
to be Sir, your
humble Servant
JOS. NOURSE, D. S.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, junr Esq., President of the State of Pensylvania.

℔ Mr. Montgomery.

Resolutions of Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly, Friday Dec. 12th, 1777, A. M.

The House resumed the Consideration of the Resolves of Congress, and the third of them being read and Debated, It was thereupon

Resolved, That this House do most earnestly Recommend to his Excellency the President, Vice-President and Executive Council of the State to take the most effectual measures that Justice be duly administred therein as well for the Recovery of Debts, as for the punishment of Crimes and Mis-demeanors, agreeable to the wholesome Laws of this Common Wealth.

Eodem Die p. m.

The seventh Resolve was then read & after some considerable Time spent in Debate and Deliberation, It was

Resolved, That it be Recomended to his Excellency the president,

Vice-president & Supreme Executive Council to exert their best Endeavours to procure, Collect & distribute the Cloathing mentioned in the said seventh Resolve of Congress, among the Soldiers and officers of the Battalions of this State belonging to the Continental Army, agreeable to the Mode laid down in the said Resolve.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.
Clk of Gen. assy.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO MAJ. GEN. ARMSTRONG, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, Decr 12th, 1777.

Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving your two letters of the 4th and 7th Instant, which I layed before the Council, whose thanks you have for the Contents.

The precipitate retreat of the enemy, after so much Gasconading, is a convincing proof that their army is not so formidable as they would wish us to believe, or that they put great dependance in our want of bravery, and therefore expected our army would retreat from hill to hill as soon as they approached, they have however been disappointed, and I trust we shall benefit by this last movement of theirs. The Conduct of our militia gives me real pain, Council is informed from various hands that they have behaved very infamously. The loss of our worthy General Irwin, I have been informed, was owing entirely to their base behaviour. I flatter myself that the Legislature of this Commonwealth will fall on a mode to fill the battalions in the Continental Service, so as the necessity of calling out the militia may in a great measure be dispensed with—respecting Mr. Penn and Mr. Chew, Council has not lately heard any thing about them, if they are to be removed it will be by the direction of the Board of War. This ℔ Express, ℔ whom I beg you to communicate any intelligence worth Notice.

I am, with respect, Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, Junr.

Major Gen'l Armstrong.

Council to Board of War, 1777.

Lancaster, Dec^r 12, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Council of this State, to apply to your honorable board for a number of arms which remain in the hands of Mr. Robert Towers, and a number which are at Allentown, both parcels at the present altogether unfit for Service, which Council will have repaired as soon as possible, and put into the hands of the people of Westmoreland and Bedford counties, to enable them to repel the Indians, who are killing and Scalping the inhabitants of those counties, if your board Shall order them to be delivered for that purpose. About five hundred Arms will be wanted for each of these counties.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your very humble Servant.

Hn'ble Board of War.

Council to Gen. Anthony Wayne, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 12th, 1777.

Sir,

I duly receivd your favor,* which I layed before Council. I am clearly of opinion that the Militia law of this State is inadequate to the intention of the Legislature, and has greatly injured the recruiting Service. Their embodiment has draind our Treasury, by the enormous Sums of Money advanced for Substitutes & not yet recovered, & has taken many of our useful Farmers & tradesmen from their Habitations to the great Injury of the Publick, without rendering that Service which was expected from them, and this owing to a variety of causes.

The representatives of the State are now convened. I understand they see the inefficiency of that law, & will adopt other regulations less injurious to this Commonwealth, and give full scope to the exertions that may be made for filling the Battalions of Continental Troops of this State, for from them we must expect success against our Enemies and the full establishment of Independance.

The Cloathing of our Troops is also a matter of most serious consequence, and demands our greatest attention. The Council of Safety, above a year since, well apprized of the mischief that would attend any neglect in this business, were laying Schemes to procure a full stock of whatever might be necessary, as well for the Regiments of this State in the Continental Service, as for our Fleet,

* See page 25.

(which this Country was then able to yield without difficulty,) and they had actually secured a considerable quantity. But finding, by a Resolve of Congress, a Clothier General appointed, (which resolve he himself layed before Council, at the same time assureing them that he would use every means in his Power to provide the necessary Cloathing for the Army, and that a competition in purchasers would tend to raise the prices, but not increase the quantity,) it was intirely given up by them. After this, it is distressing to hear, from what cause soever, that our poor Soldiers have not receivd the necessary Supplies. Congress has very lately passed a Resolve, recommending to the different Legislatures, to provide Cloathing on the best terms they can, in addition to what the Cloathier General may procure, taking special care not to interfere with his purchasing Agents, and supply the Troops of their own State, both Officers and Men, at such reasonable prices as he may assess them, the Loss to fall on the United States. This step, I flatter myself, will soon be gone into, & money advanced by Congress to defray the Expences; and I hope, in as short a time as possible, every shadow of complaint on this score will be removed, and the Army supplied on reasonable terms. Until this measure takes place Council cannot interfere, with any degree of propriety, with the Payment of Monies for Cloathing purchased by order of any of the Officers, as it lies intirely with the Clothier General, to whom, or the Board of War, application should be made, who have, I suppose, hands for that purpose; on this account, if no other difficulty interposed, Council could not pay the sum you desire to Mr. Zantzinger, altho at the same time they highly commend your Humanity and attention to the distressed Men under your Command. Council, however, would most cheerfully, upon some terms or other, have put the money in Mr. Zantzingers hands, so that neither your reputation nor his Interest should suffer, but our Treasury is absolutely exhausted—and altho we shortly expect a small supply, yet the calls upon us are so very considerable, not only for the Payment of the Militia and the Boats Crews, but for other indispensible purposes of the State, that it will go but little way in discharge of those numerous demands, nor can we depend on Congress at this time for help as formerly, a Collection of Blankets, Shoes & Stockings, and indeed other Cloathing, has been ordered by Council, for which purpose Commissioners in each County are appointed. These have been directed into the Clothier Generals hands for the common Service, and this with the highest reason, as he is furnished with money to pay for them. If the danger of reproach, as partially limitting the care of Council to our own people, which has been sounded loudly against some of the States, (a conduct avoided with care by Pennsilvania,) had not kept us to the generous course w^{ch} we have taken, the want of funds would have done it.

Gen. Ant. Wayne.

(Circular) of Council, 1777.

Lancaster, 12 December, 1777.

Sir,

In the present invaded condition of this state, it is highly proper that care be taken to secure the Public Records and Papers. The extensive connection which these evidences have with private property, and the great disputes and confusion that would unavoidably ensue upon the loss of them, strongly urge their removal, not only from immediate, but also from probable danger. Without entertaining any doubts of the success of our glorious struggle, Council are of opinion, that the mischiefs which may perhaps be done by the partizans of the enemy, in sudden and unforseen incursions, (incidents which no army can entirely prevent,) ought to be provided against. For this purpose, they enjoin you to send the Records, Books and Papers of your Office, in safe custody and carefully packed, to the house of John Van Campen, Esq^{r}., whenever the movements of the Enemy shall make that measure prudent & necessary, recommending them to the keeping of the said John Van Campen, Esq^{r}.

In the mean time I am directed to ask a line of information by the first opportunity, concerning the present situation of the public papers in your hands, or belonging to your Offices; and to assure you, that you will be reimbursed the necessary charges of removing them, as directed.

The County of Bucks are directed to send their records to your care immediately, and on their arrival you are to Secure them in the most effectual manner, and to remove them to Mr. Van Campen's, at the same time that you Send the records of your County there.

The Council depend on your prudence and attention in the execution of this important trust.

I am with

great respect

your very

humble servant

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

(Copy.)

N. B. Any other public papers which may be in your county, not under the care of their proper officers, you will please to consider as within the intention of this order.

Yours relating to Mr. Hooper, &c., is received.

To Rob^{t} Levers, Esq^{r}., Northampton.

* Partly printed in handbill and partly in MS.

President Wharton to Elias Boudinot, 1777.

Lancaster, Dec^r 13th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I am favoured with yours of the 9th Instant, and return you many thanks for the intelligence you are pleased to communicate; it is very acceptable to Council, who will be much obliged by a continuance of your information. I fully expected that a general battle would have been fought, as there seems little doubt that the enemy came out with that determination, that they have been egregiously disappointed is very apparent, their precipitate retreat disgraces them much, and must lessen the confidence which the Friends to Government, as they Stile themselves, has placed in them from this movement of theirs. I think much may be gathered, they are not so Strong as many believed them, or they expected our army would retire upon their approach.

The base conduct of our militia gives me much pain, the loss of General Irwin to this State is very considerable, as he was a brave vigilant Officer. I hope the Legislature of this Commonwealth will adopt some mode that will effectually fill the battallions of this State in the Continental Service, so that there may be little or no necessity to call out the militia. I hope our troops may not retire to winter quarters and leave our country open to the ravages and insults of the enemy, possibly some opportunity may turn up in the course of the winter for our army, if they should be near the enemy to attack them, with a good prospect of success, which, if scattered, or at a great distance, cannot be put in execution.

I am, with great respect,

Dear Sir,

Your very hum. Serv^t.

THOMAS WHARTON, J^r.

Elias Boudinot, Esq^r.

Council to Gen. Potter, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 13th, 1777.

Sir,

Council being very anxious to know what is passing in your quarter, as they understand you are on the West side of Schuylkill, have ordered the bearer Step^n Sutton who they send Express, to call upon you on his way to Head Quarters and will thank you for any intelligence that you may think worth communicating.

The late movement of the Enemy I think has disgraced them much—after so much Gasconading they should have attacked you—it convinces me that they are not so formidable as they have given out, or that they expected our army would retreat immediately on their approach.

The conduct of our Militia gives me much uneasiness—and the Loss of Gen. Irwin I much regret, as he is a brave Vigilant officer, I hope the Legislature will adopt some mode to fill the Battalion of this State in Continental Service so as there may be little or no necessity to send the Militia to camp.

I have several times order'd some News Papers to be sent to you for the perusal of yourself & officers, I hope they got safe to hand—some goes by this Express,

I am

with respect

Sr your very

Hum. Servt.

Directed,

To Gen'l Potter.

Gen. Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp on N. Wales Road near the Spring Tavern, 14th Decr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I hope you have rec'd my several letters by Express and Coll. Blain—and that the honorable Council will accept with mine, the thanks of the officers & privates of the Militia for the News-papers. I hope Gen'l Potter now in Chester County has taken care to acquaint you of the dispersion of his Brigade on the 11th Inst by a superior body of the Enemy then out as I suppose on the Foraging business. I can neither ascertain his loss, nor whether his men are yet come in, but hope by this time they may.

I am now to inform you that Gen'l Washington having moved over the Schuylkill with the whole of his army in order most probably to take a Position on that side for the Winter—I am for the present left here to attempt covering a large country with about one thousand of our Militia; a task perhaps impossible fully to effect by, nor was it effected by the whole army—true the good General does not mean that this or several other branches of his instructions can by any such handful of men be wholly complied with, but only to do what we can with reasonable safety to the whole. I am willing for a few days to risk anything I can, hopeing now the army will appear on the banks of the Schuylkill on equal ground & probably insult the enemy at

the Middle Ferry) that they may go out & give Battle to our army, under this view I wish the Gen'l to retain his whole strength, but if Gen. Howe does not attack our army in one week, I think he will not this winter, but only send detachments to Forrage & plunder where it may be done with the least impunity, indeed both sides the Schuylkill cannot be tolerably saved without dividing for the winter the Continental army to which I doubt the Gen'l will not accede, & to which I confess there is one or two potent objections. The Chief design of this letter is, and to wch I flatter myself the Council will pay the most early attention, that one or two Brigadiers General may be appointed for the State—Sorry I am that the Choices of Council on this important point are not more numerous & easy, but such is the necessity of the case that something must suddenly be done. Even before the loss of Gen Irwin and since Gen. Potter has several times told me he can not by any means stay out this winter. With regard to myself, the language of nature, & common sense sufficiently argues against a Winter Campaign of this sort, not perhaps two nights in one place, and altho' my determination was not to relax a single day whilst anything important was in view, or during the active part of the Campaign, yet did I fully expect it would have been closed more than a month ago.

Permit me at this crisis to name a few names—Col. Penrose I have heard well spoken of, but never saw that Gentn—also Col. Morris somewhat less, also unacquainted—Col. Bradford I fear too old—a Col Delaney. There is a Lt Col. Connor in the Continental line, whether he wou'd accept I know not. He is a genteel man, & an active good officer, but has not had such a standing in the Province as cou'd be wished—Col. Bull is known to the Council. It might not be impossible to bring in Gen. Reed, that wou'd be doing business to purpose but it must be in high rank, and a delicate point first to be consentably fixed with Gen. Potter. Please to forgive these liberties perfectly submitted as they are & thrown out from the mere anxiety I have to assist your choice, but shou'd be happy to think you cou'd fall upon objects still more proper, two Brigadiers appear to be few enough, by this means some reliefs cou'd be yielded, as there are but few men who can serve constantly in the Militia.

I am Sir with perfect
respect your Excellency's most
Obedt humble Servt
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. I hope to be soon favour'd with the result of Council on the above, and whoever is appointed must immediately appear for duty.

Directed.

On the Publick Service.

His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq., Lancaster.

Favoured by
Doctor Duffield

Lt's Smith and Keachline, 1777.

Rockhill. Decem^r y^e 14^th^, 1777.

Sir,

On receiving information of a large quantity of woolen Cloaths Being convaid to the grate swamp said to be private property, ingaged us to do every thing in our power to make the Discovery, and found said goods Depozi^d^ in the hands of Robert Barr in said swamp which we have taken into our possion, the quantity is nine large Bales of Cloathes, & five small Bales of Sattens.

As the said goods seems to us to be very proper to cloath our army, we should be very glade to be further advised by your Exec^y^ what further steps to take in said affair as we apprehend the goods are not ar present in a proper place of Safety.

We have the Honour

D^r^ S^r^ to Be y^r^ Excelly's hub'e S^t^

SAM'L SMITH.
AND'W KEACHLINE.

N. B. We Received the first information of said goods by Col. More of Phila., County who have been out on said Business for sum Concid^e^ time there is sum cost acrued in this affair which we make no doubt of being allowed.

Directed.

To His Exec^y^ Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Excutive Council.

Colonel Clement Biddle to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp, Gulph Mill, December 14, 1777.

Sir,

As the Legislature of this State have repealed the Ordinance regulating the prices of Forage, &c., I beg leave to inform you that the most dangerous Consequences will ensue unless some mode is adopted to secure a constant supply for the Army, which is now the greatest part on the West side of Schuylkil.

I have therefore to request you to represent to the Legislature the necessity of forming some Plan to secure a constant supply, and for forming the necessary magazines in our rear, to answer this necessary purpose.

The removing all Forage between us & the Enemy is constantly

attended to, but our chief Dependance must be from the Country back of us, as the Enemy have ravaged the Country below.

I request the favour of you to transmit me any Law that may be passed for this purpose, that I may pay the earliest attention thereto.

I have the honour to be

your Excellency's

most obed^{t} serv^{t},

CLEMENT BIDDLE.
Com^{s} Forage.

Directed,

On public service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, y^{e} 15th December, 1777.

Sir,

The Board have directed me to request your Excellency will please to let the Bearer, Mr. Jacob Sattler, have the Draft drawn in his favour, by Owen Jones, Jr., on Matthias Slough, & which I had the honour of transmitting you a few days ago.

I have the honor to be Sir,

your very humble serv^{t},

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Directed,

On public service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., President of the Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Order of Council of Safety.

Lancaster, Dec'r, 1777.

Ordered that the Commissioners appointed by an Ordinance of the Council of Safety, of the 8th November last, to collect Arms, Blankets & Cloathing, be impowered to appoint assistants & to use Force where it may be necessary; and all officers, civil & military, & others, are requested & commanded to aid & assist them in the Execution of the premises, and the s^{d} Commissioners are impowered to allow reasonable Wages to their Assistants, during the time they shall be so employed.

* See pages 53–56, 74, 79.

George Stevenson to President Wharton, 1777.

Carlisle, 15th Decr, 1777.

Gentlemen,

As one of the Commissioners for Cumberland County, by an Ordinance of the late Council of Safety, made at Lancr the 21st of Octr last, appointed, I have caused the personal Estate of the following Persons to be seized, viz: Alex'r McDonald, Kennet McKinzie, Edwd Erwin, William Simpson, Hugh Gwin, William McPherson, and Robert Steel; their personal Estates consists of Horses, Cattle, Wheat, Rye, Oats, and Hay, also some Household Goods of little Value. They are now in the care of Neighbours, whose Obligations I have conditioned for the Delivery of them to me, when required; the Horses and Cattle are kept at Expence. The Wives and Children are doubtless now eating of the Grain. I have made those seizures on the Evidence of Edward West, Robert Steel, and Thomas Kinsloe, who, on their Examination before two of the Justices here, said that the Persons above named were in General Howe's Camp, at Philada, which Examinations were laid before you by Francis West, soon after they were taken.

Sundrie Persons, since the Seizure, have called on me and said that the above named Persons are indebted to them. Ought not the just Demands of the Neighbours, against those People, to be paid?

Some of the Inhabitants say that the Wives and Children of the above named Persons must be maintained with the Effects of their Husbands and Parents, others say they must be maintained by the Townships; I differ in Opinion with both, and think they ought to be sent to Genrl Howe's Camp, to their Husbands and Parents. Why should Whig Inhabitants support the Families of the Enemies of their Country? I believe the War was brought on by such, tho' they moved in an higher Sphere, and I believe all Ranks of them have contributed all in their power to carry it on. If the Effects of these People are to support their Wives and Children, I ask what share are they to have—they ought not to starve.

Robert Steel returned from Howe's Camp in Company with Edward West, who was committed to Carlisle Prison with him. West was enlarged on bail in the trifling sum of £300, Steel continued in Prison, their Crime was the very same.

A Mare belonging to Steel (of no great value) is taken, the only Goods known to belong to him. As he returned from Howe's Camp, and lies in Jail, he thinks it hard that his Mare should be confiscated. What shall be done in this case?

I have been of the Opinion, from the Beginning of this War, that the Estate of every Man who showed himself to be his Countrie's Foe, ought to have been immediately seized; but before any Sale the Commissioner ought to have been authorized to issue a

Venire, directed to the Sheriff, to summon an Inquest, to enquire, on Oath or Affirmation, whether the Owner of such Estate was an Enemy or a Friend to his Country? and make a true Inquisition, under their Hands and Seals, according to their Evidence. If the Inquest found the Owner an Enemy, the Goods of Course must be confiscated, and after such Proceedings had, I should have no Hesitation to sell the Estate, and I think the Buyer would have a good Title, but as the above recited Ordinance stands, I am of Opinion it lodges too much Power in one Man.

Under the said Ordinance I have seized, and I think I must proceed to Sale, not as the Effects of my Judgment, but of Necessity, otherwise great Part of the Goods will eat up their Value in a short Time.

I forwarded the Petition of the unfortunate Daniel Shelly, and in Letters mentioned his Case to the Supreme Executive Council more than once, and hitherto have not received an Answer. I am fully persuaded his Affirmation is Truth. M^cDonald, named in his Affirmation, is the very Man first named in this Letter. The Man who accompanied Parson Batwell to Shelly's House, tho' no Person privy to the taking of Shelly's Examination, knew any thing of him at that Time. Shelly is now confined in the same Place with, and treated in the same Manner as the obstinate Jersey Tories are, who were taken in Arms against the United States; they are bad Company for a State Witness. I would not be understood to palliate his Crimes; whatever they were, they were conditionally pardoned, therefore, he is now confined as a State Evidence only. He always has said he can find Bail for his appearance at any Court, and for his good Behaviour in the mean Time, not in the sum of £300, but in £3000, nay, £10,000.

I humbly request an Answer to this Letter, as soon as the Supreme Executive Council can spare Time from Matters of a greater Importance, to read it, and am,

Gent^n,

y^r most obed^t

H^ble Serv^t,

GEO. STEVENSON.

P. S. Robert Steel and Thomas Kinslo, having been at Camp with Gen. Howe, return'd in Company with Edward West, and were committed with him. They say they are willing to swear Allegiance to the State, and can find Bail as West has. Quere. May the Justices here admit them to Bail.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., President, and other Members, of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1777.

Bellvue, Bucks County, 15th Decr, 1777.

Sir,

I yesterday had the Hon'r of receiv'g your Excellency's Commands of the 5th Inst: and shall make the most speedy Complyance in my power. I have lately given the most press'g directions for ye recovery of the sub: money, &c., throughout the Eight classes, and tho' we find many among the Non Conformists Very unable to pay the sums rated on them; Nevertheless, I am not without good hopes of procuring a considerable Ballance in favour of the States. Your Excellency may depend I will again press this matter, and transmit the money arrising immediately into the Treasury.

As soon as I can procure a return from my Sub Lieuts of the Militia who have turn'd out in their respective Class's, shall send it forward.

I Expect Col. Lacey, who Commands the Militia now on duty, has made your Excellency a return of their numbers, as he has not done it through me as I Expect'd In a letter to Col. Gill, he mentions 306, rank & file, with a proportionable No of officers, which is I apprehend near the true state.

I have the Honr to be with utmost respect
Your Excelency's most obedt Hble Servt,
JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State, Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

James Tilghman to President Wharton, 1777.

Chester Town, Maryland, Decr 15th, 1777,

Sir,

I have just received the favour of your Letter of the 20th November, and am much obliged to the Executive Council for the Indulgence it contains. The Secretary's Letter of the 17th October came safe to hand.

I have the honor to be
With much respect,
Your most Obt Servt,
JAMES TILGHMAN.*

Directed,

To his Excellency, Thomas Wharton Esq'r, President of the Council of Pennsylvania.

By Post.

* See Page 641, Vol. V.

Comm'r Thomas Seymour to Council, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed you have Sundry Letters, under the care of won Mr. Dan. Cornock, who was going to Philada. with them, the above Dan. Cornock, I've sent down to you, for further axamanation under a strong guard.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servt,
THO'S SEYMOUR.

Dunkes's Ferry, 15th December, 1777.

P.S. Gentlemen,
I've examined all Mr. Danl. Cornock's Packets, &c., & have not found any thing against him.

I am, Gentn,
Yr most humc Servt,
THO'S SEYMOUR.

Directed,

To The Hon. Council of Safety at Philadelphia.

General Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

Last Thursday the enemy march out of the City with a desine to Furridge; but it was Nessecerey to drive me out of the way; my advanced picquet fired on them at the Bridge; another party of one Hundred attacted them at the Black Hors. I was enCamped on Charles Thomson's place, where I staccoued two Regments who attacted the enemy with Viger. On the next Hill, I staeconed three Regments, letting the first line Know, that when they were over powered, the must Retreat and form behind the sacond line, and in that maner we formed and Retreated for four miles; and on every Hill we disputed the matter with them. My people Behaved well, espealy three Regements, Commanded by the Cols Chambers, Murrey and Leacey. His Excellency Returned us thanks in public orders;—But the cumplement would have Been mutch more substantale had the Valant Generil Solovan Covered my Retreat with two Devissions of the Army, he had in my Reare; the front of them

was about one half mill in my Rear, but he gave orders for them to Retreat and join the army, who were on the other side of the Schuylkill, about one mile and a Half off from me; thus the enemy Got leave to plunder the Countrey, Whech the have dun without parsiality or favour to any, leaving none of the Nesscereys of life Behind them that the conveniantly could Carrey or destroy. My loss in this Action I am not able to Assartain as yet; it is not so mutch as might be expected. The Killed don't exceed 5 or 6; taken prisners about 20; wounded about 20; with us the enemy acknowledged the got the worst of this Action; there light hors Suffered mutch, for they Charged us.

I am your Excellancey's most obedant
Humble Servant,
JA. POTTER.

P. S. His Excellancey was not with the Army when this unlucky neglact hapned; the army was on there march, and he had not come from his Quarters at Whit marsh.

Chester County Camp at Head Quarters, Dec. 15th, 1777.

Directed,
On public service.
His Excellancey Thomas Wharton, Esq^r, Lancaster.

General Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Chester County Head Quarters,
Decr. 16th, 1777.

Sir,

I Received your favour of the 13th Instant, wherein you express the Desier of Counsal to Know what is passing on the Wist side of Schuylkill, the enemy set out from the City on the night of the forth Instant at 9 o'Clock, and Before day they were on Chesnut Hill about Bushes house, I was ordered off with a Contenantale Rigement and my Bragade to Scrimedge on their left wing; nothing meteral hapned with us, we Killed 6 or 7 of them and had some desarters came to us, soon after our little scrimige that unlucky affair where in we Lost the Brave General Irwin hapned, the partiqulars of which I am not well Acquented with, as I did not see them; the sixth nothing meteral hapned; on sabath morning I was Informed that the enemy was gon from Mr. Bushes, I was ordered to go and find out there Rout with my Bragaid, I went to Bushes and found they were gon to Jarminton, and from there Had Marched towards Eadge Hill; I sent a small party of 80 men to follow there Reer, and I marched off with the Remainder to your place, when I discovered a bodey of the enemy, after some time we engaged in the woods Be-

tween your house and Emlings, my Contanental Rigment soon Broak, and the enfection Cached the Militia Like lightaning, I got a number of the Militia to Rally, and the enemy and us stood and Vewed each other for some time, and when I was convinced there was no Reinforcement coming I returned to Camp, Col. Morgan scrimidged smartly with them the same day, and som of the Maryland assisted him, he was on the Right of the enemy and I on the left.

On monday nothing meteral hapned, in the evening the enemy moved off, and under cover of the Night Returned to the City, after Burning a number of Houses, Robing and plundering every person they came across; my penn cant describe there Barbarity and Crualty, nor can you conseve the waste and Destruction that attended there futsteps every where they go.

In there last Rout through this County, after men surrendered to them and gave up their arms, they have Savige liek Cut, Stabed in a most crual maner, among a number of others Mr. Antoney Morris is one of those unfortunate men, after the Had taken all he had in and about his house, and left his wife and Children without meat or Clothing, he enraged at such Treatment went out with some of our Horsemen, who met with a stronger party of the enemy that Took Mr. Morris and Two more of the party, after they had disarmed them they Cut and Slashed them in a most Cruale maner, and left them as they thought dead. Mr. Morris is in a good way of Recovery.

I am your Excellencys
most obedient
Humble servant,
JA^{s} POTTER.

P. S. I hope the Legislature will adopt som mode to fill the Contanentale Battalions of this State, I have Received three packets of News papers which you were so kind as to send to me, for which I return you thanks. In my last to you I Informed you of a leat Action I had, I have taken more prisoners than I lost, last night I sent 13 British and Hessen prisoners to the provo Gaurd, and one this day.

J. P.

—

Sir,

I understand by a letter I have Receved from General Armstrong, that he has wrote to Councal to appoint one or two Brigadeers more, I think it is verey Necessary; I would not take upon me to Recommend any person, But I would Just put you in mind of Col Antoney Morris, a Gentleman of Good Reputation as an officer, altho I am

not Accuanted with him, I am in love with his Carrectour as an officer.

I am your excellencys
Humble Servant,
JA^{s} POTTER.

Dec'r 17, 1777.

Directed,

On public Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, Lancaster.

℔ Express.

MAJ. GEN. ARMSTRONG TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Camp near Spring Tavern, 16th, a Night.

Sir,

I'm this evening favour'd with yours of the 12th Ins^{t}, and had the pleasure of writing you very lately by Doctor Duffield. "The precipitate retreat of the Enemy from Chesnut Hill was not owing to the want of strength but prudence. General Washington's well chosen ground & respectable Army presented to them a formidable front, which, had they attacked, must to them have been fatal.—They dared not risque a Circuitous march to manuvre behind us or attack in rear, as had they been unfortunate, their retreat to Philad^{a} must have been cut off. At the same time it must be allowed that takeing in the consideration of their previous boasts, the retreat has vailed the glitter of their Arms, nor are they less disgraced by their low Cruelty & plundering spirit."

"No man can more deeply resent the infamous conduct of such of the Militia as were in reach of General Irwin when he fell from his horse than I do, but very few there are to acknowledge they saw him in that situation, and these, whether true or false, are not without their apologies. Many, too many of the militia, are a Scandle to the military profession, a nusance in service & a dead weight on the publick; yet, is it equally true, that taken as a body, they have render'd that Service that neither the State nor the Army cou'd have dispenced with. They have constantly mounted guards, form'd many & distant Pickquets, perform'd many occasional pieces of labour—Patroled the Roads leading to the Enemy by day & by night, & that more than their proportion—they have taken a number of prisoners, brought in deserters, suppressed Tories, prevented much intercourse betwixt the disaffected & the Enemy—Met and Scirmished with the Enemy as early & as often as others, and except the Battle of Brandiwine, of which from their Station little fell

in their way, have had a proportional Share of Success, hazard, & loss of blood. I hate the disagreeable doctrine of comparison, and only give this detail to shew the partial representations you have had of the Services of the militia of this State. They judge ill of the uses of a Body of men who fix their character from a single action, and still worse, who brand the whole with the infamous conduct of only a part, when others of the same body, & on the same occasion have fully evinced their bravery. Take for instance that very affair in which I agree the Cowardize of a part occasion'd the loss of Gen'l Irwin, & there we find that a very warm fire was maintain'd by others of the militia for the full space of Twenty minutes, and if we may believe report, several Waggons, (some call them nine in number) were employed by the enemy on that occasion in carying off their wounded, amongst whom was Sir James Murray—two Graves were also found on the place, who or how many might be in them has not been examin'd." In the late Scirmish of Gen'l Potters Brigade, altho' they were dispersed, they must have done the Enemy some damage. He writes me he had five Men Killed, Ten wounded & Ten made prisoners, but a greater number missing.

The General, with the whole of the Army, has now taken his Winter Position in the County of Chester, so that the forbiding idea of Winter Quarters is now, I hope, fully laid aside. So far things are well, but mark the Scene that naturally Opens on this side the Schuylkill, extending to the Counties of Philad[a] & Bucks. The Enemies objects for resources, &c., &c., are now Open & easy of access on this side, this great extent having at present no other Covering than the few Militia now with me, except Capt[n] Craigs Troop of about twenty Horse stationed near Jermantown, and a few light Horse from Bucks, sent me by Col. Kirkbride. Gen[l] Potters Brigade may be sent me in the space of a Week, or perhaps longer, but can make no very essential difference in a Country of such extent, so many leading as well as by roads without any natural impediment, except such as may arise from the Season. The Enemy may come when & where they please, and doubtless come in force—we cannot suppose they will fool these efforts, when prompted by necessity & other concurring designs, nor is it unnatural to think they may take an advanc'd Post at Jermantown, in order to send us farther back & facilitate their various purposes. Thro' many impediments, I have not yet been able to throw any detachments of foot on the Old York, Newtown & Bristol roads, but tomorrow, if weather permit, intend some distribution of that sort, & shall, as soon as possible, make the best dispossition I can for the Winter, and in the best can only have a Choice of difficult or doubtful measures, to be varied occasionally—Into sundry smaller partys they must be thrown, and how to get them regularly Supplied with provisions will not be found easy, as I now find difficulty enuff in our Encampment. The design of filling up the Quotas of the several States with Continental Troops, so as in a great measure to supercede the use of the

Militia, is highly approveable, nor shou'd time be lost in the measure, which ought to originate & be immediately pushed in Congress, as it must either be general or fail, & prove peculiarly severe to whatever State is infested by the Enemy. It wou'd oblige me much, if agreeable to Council, that you'l please to send a Copy of this to Gen[l] Roberdeau, I shou'd have wrote that Gent[n] but have not time, and I apprehend there may be a propriety in doing it. The troops with me are much obliged to Council for the Newspapers—they are amusing & acceptable. I hope the particular urged in my last will be early attended to.

And am, Sir,

very respectfully yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

On the publick Service—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq[r]., President of the State of Penns[a], Lancaster.

℔ Express returned.

Owen Jones Jr., to James Duane, 1777.

Winchester, 17 Decem[r], 1777.

Respected friend,

There was a time when I thought there was a friendship subsisted between us, & I have no reason to think it otherwise, notwithstanding our very different Circumstances in Life. My present hard situation induces me to represent my Case to some person in power, and there is no Delegate in Congress, except thyself, with whom I can claim the least acquaintance. It will be unnecessary to acquaint thee with the manner of my being taken up & brought to this place, of which I make no doubt thou art fully informed, but I can assure thee it was without any just grounds, & I am sure had I had an opportunity of defending myself before an impartial Jury of my Country I could have provd my innocence, for no person was more cautious of writing or doing any thing detrimental to the common Interests of America than I was.

This day Major Holmes informd myself & fellow prisoners, that he had orders from the Board of War, forthwith to remove us to Staunton, in Virginia, & there to be confind without the use of pen, Ink & paper,* unless under particular restrictions, & that I only of all my fellow prisoners should be put into the common Jail of the County, separated from the rest of my Companions, & that only for sending sixteen half Joes down the Country to be exchanged for continental money; & here I would wish to remark to thee, that

* See pages 74, 106.

before we left the City of Philadelphia, the Town Major, in answer to one of the Questions proposed to the president & Council, informed us that the necessary care should be taken for our Support on the Road, & after our Arrival at this place. But what was our surprize I must leave thee to judge, when after some weeks had elapsed, that a very exorbitant demand was made for our support, & as I was a prisoner, there was no alternative. I must comply with those demands or go without the necessaries of Life; this, together with the high price of every article of Living led me to look into the State of my Cash, & I was obliged, in order to satisfy this Debt & my other necessary wants, to send a few half Johannes to Lancaster to be disposed of, & surely my sending to so distant a place to transact this matter, & thereby to possess myself of continental money, rather tended to support than diminish its value here. I can, with truth, say I never offerd to dispose of any at this place, or by any means to depreciate the money. I knew they were an Article of merchandize in my native Country, & were bought & sold daily by persons who were esteemd good Whigs, & if under my peculiar Circumstances it was a crime, could it be thought of so heinous a nature as to banish me 100 miles farther distant from home, confind to a loathsome Jail far distant from all my Friends & near connexions in Life.

Upon the whole I wish to lay my hard Fate before thee & request, on the remembrance of former Friendship, thou would use thy Influence with Congress to alleviate this cruel sentence; had I been continued in the same situation with my fellow prisoners I should not have troubled thee with these few Lines, or made a separate application, but as I am so differently circumstanced, I could not help flattering myself that thy influence in my behalf would be of service to me, & I believe thou will take pleasure in rendering me a kindness. Since I left Philad[a] I have received several Letters from my Father, in some of which he informs me that he had taken much pains to obtain the Release of several American Officers who are prisoners, & that he had met with much success; and since I have been here I receivd a Letter, a copy of which is inclosed, from Capt. Willis, a Relation of General Washington, acknowledging my Father's kindness in obtaining his Liberty. I just mention this, does it not merit a return. If it is in thy power to get me put on the same footing with my Companions & fellow prisoners, I wish it could be done by return of this express.

This will be handed to thee by the same person who carries a Remonstrance to Congress, & I wish thee to lay this Letter before them, that my particular Case may be considerd at the same time with our Joint Remonstrance.

I am, with much Regard,
thy assured Friend,
OWEN JONES, Jr.

For James Duane, Esq[r].

Council to Col. Clement Biddle, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 17th, 1777.

Sir,

I receivd your Letter dated the 14th Inst., respecting Forage for our Army. I find you have mistaken the meaning of the Ordinance of Council which the House of Assembly has made void, as it was only a recommendation of Council to the Purchasing Commissarys. I have, however, to inform you that the Legislature, prior to their repealing the Ordinance, entered into a Resolve, authorizing His Excell. Gen. Washington to empower the Commissarys to collect Provissions & Forage for the Use of the Army, a Copy of the Resolve I expected you would have been furnished with, but as I find that was not the Case, I herewith send it for your information. If, after the Powers that His Excellᵞ is therein vested with, the Army should be in want of Victual or Forage, the fault must lay with the Persons employed.

I am, with much respect,
Sir,
Your very Hum. Sert.

Coll. Clem. Biddle,
Com'y of Forage.

Remonstrance of Council and Assembly to Congress, 1777.

At a Conference *with* the Supreme Executive Council & Gen'l Asssembly of this State, held in the Assembly Room, Resolvᵈ, that a Remonstrance be Immediately drawn up & forwarded to Congress, against the Propos'd Cantoonment of the Army of the United States, under command of his Excellᵞ Genˡ Washington, & that the following reasons be urged.

1st. That By the Armys removal to the West side of the Schulkill, as far as Wilmington & its neighbourhood, great part of this State, particularly that on the East side, together with the State of New Jersey, must be left in the Power of the Enemy, subject to their Ravages—the Inhabitants be obliged either to fly to the neighbouring States, or Submit to such Terms as the Enemy may prescribe.

2d. That the State Assembly, at their last session, had laid a tax of 5*s.* in the Pound on all Estates, real & Personal, in order to call in & Sink the monies Issued by this Government, & at this Session had Resolv'd over & above sᵈ Tax to raise the sum of 620,000 Dollˢ

* See page 92.

for support of the War for the Ensuing Year, agreeable to resolve of Congress—both w^ch^ Taxes must infalliably fail, provided the Army go into Cantoonment, at such a Distance as will prevent their covering the Country from the Depredations of the Enemy, it being a melancholly truth, that too many of our People are so disafected already that nothing but the neighbourhood of the Army keeps them subject to Government, whilst the Whigs, & those who have taken the most active Part in support of our Cause, will be discouraged & give up all as lost.

3d. By the removal of our Army it will be impossible to recruit the Regiments of this State, as those who would be active & Zealous in promoting that measure will be obliged to leave the State, whilst the Torys & Disafected will gain Strength, & in many places perhaps declare openly for the Enemy, by w^ch^ means there will be a probability of their not only Supplying their Exausted Magazines, but greatly strengthning their Army.

4th. The Army removing at a Distance from the Enemy must give a fatal Stab to the Credit of the Continental Currency throughout this State. It is a melancholly truth, that it is very Difficult to purchase from many of our most able Farmers the necessary Provisions of our Army, owing to their fear of the money—but this difficulty must be greatly Encreased when another Market, without Interuption, will open to them where they will receive at least a promise of hard money.

Daniel Clymer to President Wharton, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I have been this Week at Easton on Business, and as Commissary of Prisoners, have been enquiring concerning their Situation—they are now in close Goal, and Detained there by Guard under Coll. Labar, who has shew'd me your Excellency's Letter to have a strict eye to the Persons passing through this town to, and from the Jersies. Coll. Labar is an attentive man and does his Duty extremely well—however, this Week, notwithstanding his Appointment with the pay & return of a Captain, the Militia have call'd him forth to Camp, whither he is gone. I shoud imagine that this Office woud be an Exemption to him from Service in the Militia, and I dare say you will be of Opinion (on Consideration) with me that it is. I thought it my Duty, as Commissary of Prisoners, to mention this affair, as it appears to be a Matter of some Consequence, (at this Critical Time, when the motions of the Enemy are entirely uncertain, & Easton may be their object, as there are few Soldiers between it & Philad^a^)—that you may, if you

think it the most adviseable, write to General Armstrong or General Potter to give Orders for Coll. Labar to return to his Post.

I have the Honor to be, with Respet,

Your obedient Servt.

DAN'L CLYMER.

Thos. Wharton, Esqr.
Easton, Decr 18, 1777.
N. B. I have spoke to Mr. Sergeant on the subject.
There are 60 Prisoners in Easton Goal.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Lancaster.

Owen Jones, Jr., to T. Matlack, 1777.

Winchester, 18 December, 1777.

Respected Friend,

My particular hard situation induces me to apply to some person in Council, and there is none except thyself that I can make an application to with same freedom. I believe from our former acquaintance & the personal Regard thou always professed for me, thou will take the same pleasure in rendering me a service, as be assured I should do to thee, were it in my power. The Letter to James Duane,* a copy of which is inclosed, will fulley inform thee of my present cruel, & and for such a crime, unparaleld situation, if our Joint Remonstrance is laid before the Council of Pennsylvania, I do desire thou will back my request with thy Influence, and if thou thinks proper, lay the copy of my letter to Duane before them.

I am with Real Regard,

Thy Assur'd Friend,

O. JONES, Jr.

Examined & approved by me, Jo. Holmes, D. C. G. of Prison, State of Virginia.

Directed.

For Timothy Matlack, Secretary to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

* See page 102.

Council to Col. Sam'l Smith and A. Keachline, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, Decēmber 19th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I am favord with your Letter of the 14th Inst.,* informing Council that you had discovered a quantity of Woolens secreted in the greate Swamp, which you suppose would answer well to cloath our Troops. I am very happy you have made the discovery as the Troops are realy in want of cloaths, & am requested to present the thanks of Council to you & Coll. Moore, for your zeal and attention in this matter, and to request the favor of you immediately to hire, or if necessary impress Waggons to bring the goods forward to this Town where they shall be appraised and instantly made up for the use of the Soldiers, and when application is made by the owner he shall receive pay agreeable to valuation, if his conduct entitles him to it.

I beg no time may be lost in forwarding these goods to Council, who will cheerfully pay any Expence that has or may occur on them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your very Hum. Servt.

Directed,

Coll. Sam. Smith, & Andw Keachline.

Tho's Jones, D. C. G., to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at the Gulp, Decemr 19th, 1777.

Honoured Sir,

The approaching Calamity that threatens our Army for the want of Provisions, (occasion'd by the Scarcity of Waggons now employ'd to hall the same to Camp) emboldens me to address you on the occasion, hopeing your honour will take the same into consideration. At present there is not half teams employ'd in halling flour, &c. to supply the great army now at Camp. Can assure your honour, at this Present time there is not one single Barrell of flour to deliver out to the troops in Camp, nor cannot tell when I shall receive any; some Brigades have not Receiv'd flour for this day. Yesterday I sent off two Expresses, one for Lancaster the other to Reading, in order to forward all Provision Waggons on the road, with all speed to Camp. The express to Reading arrived late last night, by whom I learn, I need not expect but seven Waggon loads flour from thence for some days to come.

* See page 92.

Some Gentleman who came from Lancaster, Informs me, that they have not seen any Provision teams coming from thence, in consequence of which if no Immediate supplys arriving shall be utterly ruined.

I have daily wrote the Issuing Commissary at Lancaster, Yorktown & Reading, to forward supplies as fast as possible, their chief reply is they cannot (at the two former places,) procure waggons sufficient.

Inclosed is copy of a letter from Col Ross, A. Q. M. Gen^{l}., at Lancaster, wherein he mentions the Difficulty he labours under in procuring teams; must therefore inform your honours without an immediate step is taken to send daily, at least from 200 to 250 Bb^{s}. flour to Camp, the army will not be able to exist one week longer.

I remain, Sir,
In the greatest Distress,
Y^{r} Mo. Ob^{t} H^{ble} Serv^{t}
THOMAS JONES,
D. C. G. of Issues, P. T.

Directed,

On public service, Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Presid^{t}., Lancaster.

℔ Post.

J. B. Smith to V. P. Bryan, 1777.

York Town, Dec^{r} 19, 1777.

Dr. Sir,

Congress yesterday recd. acct. of the arrival of a ship from France in 75 days with 46 Cannon, 19 mortars 9 inch, 61000 wt. of Brimstone, near 4000 small arms, some powder, &c., we have no papers by this Vessel. Gen^{l} Gates has answered some queries proposed by Congress respect'g Burgoynes conduct in the Convention. He says the military chest and standards were left in Canada. He accounts for y^{e} arms bei'g unfit for service in the return, & the want of scabbard for bayonets & of Cartouch boxes, &c., & concludes that things have been conducted tolerably well.

I wish to have the result of Col Bayard & Mr. Young's Business at Camp.* I have not a copy of y^{e} resolution of y^{e} house on the quorum of their delegates. The memorial of y^{e} house & Council was laid before Congress y^{e} even'g I arrived here & read, it was again read yesterday, & will probably be considered this day. I believe congress will not wish our army to be any considerable distance

* See page 61.

from Pha. But hav'g been very unwell yesterday I could only crawl to Congress, and have not been able to visit many of the members. I expect to write to you again in a day or two.

Yrs., &c. &c.,

J. B. SMITH.

P.S. Yestrday rec'd a exact return of Burgoyn's army at the time of surrender. You'l see it in y^e^ next paper.

Directed,

Honble George Bryan, Esqr., Lancaster.,

J. B. Smith to Vice President Bryan, 1777.

York Town, Dec^r^, 19^th^, 1777.

D^r^ Sir,

This day the memorial* from our State concerning the cantonment of the regular army was taken into consideration. Congress had some time ago, by a Committee, recommended to Gen^l^ Washington, if he determined to take winter quarters, to dispose of his army in such manner as would most effectually cover the Country, &c. They have now ordered the memorial of our State to be transmitted to the Gen^l^, & have desired him to inform Congress whether he is about to canton his troops, & where, & what provision he has made for securing the East side of Schuylkill & the State of N. Jersey. This you will be pleased to communicate to the Gentlemen of both houses for their present satisfaction. A copy of the resolution I have not time by this opportunity to forward, but suppose it will be sent more formally by our delegates by the next opportunity that may offer.

We hear that the army are about putting in the Gulph valley. This is the wish of Congress as far as I can judge.

I am, D^r^ Sir,

Y^r^ aff^t^ & v. h. s^t^,

J. B. SMITH.

Directed.

To Hon^ble^ George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

* See page 104.

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1777.

State Navy Board, Bristol, Decem^{r} 19, 1777.

S^{r},

Last night we rec^{d} Four Hogsheads of Whiskey and Two Casks of Shoes and Stockings, sent by your Excellency, which are very necessary for the People. The weather begins to be Cold; therefore propose to send up the Fleet to-morrow to Borden Town Creek, which is the best Pl ce we can find for them. The Stores we shall endeavour to remove to some distance.

There is now all the Captains of the Fire Ships out of employ, and many of the Guard Boats without a man, and some without a Boat. We cannot Discharge them, and should it be done they may think it hard, tho' some of them are good for Little. On this we should be glad of your Excellency's advice or Orders on this Head. The Fleet has upwards of Five Hundred men on Board, and is well worth preserving if the War holds till the Spring.

We believe your Excellency have had some strange Reports about the Fleet, but be assured they are False, and we believe have all arose from Col. Smith. Were we present with you, doubt not we could fully satisfy you many of them are idle Tales. The men's Wages are now due, but Billy Bradford is not yet returned. The money W. B. mentioned in his last he had, is nearly expended for Cattle and other Things for the Fleet.

There is of the Board here at present Mr. Jos. Marsh & Wm. Bradford.

I am,
by order of the Board,
your Excellency
most H^{ble} Serv^{t},
WM. BRADFORD.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania at Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Decr. 19th, 1777.

Congress resumed the consideration of the remonstrances from the Council & Assembly of Pennsylvania,* whereupon

Resolved, That a copy of the remonstrances be transmitted by express to general Washington, & that he be desired to inform Congress whether he has come to a fixed resolution to canton the army; & if he has, what line of cantonment he has proposed; In particular what measures are agreed on for the protection of that part of Pennsylvania which lies on the easterly side of Schuylkill & of the state of New Jersey.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Memorial from Prisoners at Winchester to Congress, 1777.

To the Congress, and to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

A Memorial from the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the City of Philadelphia, who were sent from thence to, and are now Confined at Winchester, in Virginia, by Orders of the President and Council of Pennsylvania, in pursuance of a recommendation of Congress dated the 28th day of August last.

Having borne with patience an Imprisonment of upwards of three months at a great Distance from our Families, and having a proper sense of the Value of that Liberty of which we have been unjustly deprived, we apprehended it our Duty to ourselves and to our endeared connections from whom we were thus separated, and who must have suffer'd by our absence in this Time of great Calamity, to make some further application for our Relief, and as our Banishment was the Act of both your Bodies, we thought it most proper to address you jointly.

While we were preparing a Memorial for this purpose, we were inform'd by Joseph Holmes, who has the care of the prisoners of War in this District, that he had received some Directions from the Board of War concerning us, which he soon after communicated.

We were much surprized at the substance of those Directions, and

* See page 104.

also that they should come from a board with which we had nothing to do, as we were not found in Arms nor charged with being engaged in any measures tending to War; and of this opinion was Elias Boudinot, Esq^r, the Commissary General for Prisoners of War, who assured us at Reading, on our way hither, that we could by no means whatever be considered as Prisoners of War, and that if we had been, he should have had the charge of us, and would have interested himself in providing for our accommodation and support.

Before we left Philadelphia, We applied to the Council by Question in Writing, thro' Lewis Nicola, Town Major, to whose custody we should be committed when here; they return'd us for Answer by him, that the Governor of Virginia would have the charge of us—In consequence of which, soon after our arrival here we presented an Address to the Governor and Council of Virginia, together with the Copies of the Papers accompanying us, requesting them to enlarge our bounds, and not permit us to be removed further from home; that we might be speedily heard in our Defence, and in the meantime that we should be supported and maintained according to the Expectations given us before our Banishment. Whereupon the Council advised the Governor (and he adopted the Advice) to direct the Lieutenant of this County to allow us the benefits of Air & Exercise, and to afford us Protection and humane Treatment here, and in the mean Time to Write to the Council of Pennsylvania, "informing them of the situation *of their Prisoners* at Winchester."

Whether the Governor of Virginia has ever Written upon this Subject or not we have not yet been inform'd, but apprehend we are under his immediate direction in this place, and ought not to be removed further from Home, by the Board of War, or indeed by any other Power, without his Concurrence.

The Reasons assign'd by the Board of War in their Order for our removal are very inadequate to so great an aggravation of our Sufferings. They are comprehended under three Heads, which we shall endeavour to answer so fully as to induce you to interfere with them and prevent their being carried into execution.

The Charges against us are,

1^st^. That we have held a correspondence with divers of our Friends without communicating our Letters to some proper Officer.

2^nd^. That Owen Jones, Jun^r^, one of our Company, had exchanged Gold for an extravagant Premium, whereby the Continental Currency was much depreciated in these parts.

3^rd^. That since our coming here the confidence of the Inhabitants, and especially those of our Society, in the Continental money was diminished.

To the first, tho' we were never inform'd that it was necessary our Letters to our Families and Friends, should be inspected by any Officer here, yet we did offer them at our first arrival to the Lieutenant of this County who politely declined reading them, and, expressing

his confidence that we would not communicate any Public intelligence, permitted us to send our letters without any application to him, & We have been careful not to Minister any cause of Offence in what we have written, having confined our Correspondence to our Familes and Friends, and the subject of our Letters to our private Concerns, and many of them have gone thro' public Channels where they have been or might be examined.

For an Answer to the second, we refer you to a State of the Case of Owen Jones, Junr, by him, sent to James Duane, Esqr,* a Member of Congress, to be laid before you.

The Third requires particular Delicacy in the Answering, but as it seems to carry an Insinuation that we have been the cause of the Diminution of the Confidence of the People in the Continental Currency, it is necessary we should say so much upon the Subject as will vindicate ourselves.

Upon our arrival here, we found that Currency depreciated, as it was in other places, to a very considerable Degree, or what is the same Thing all Articles of Life risen to enormous prices, the People of the neighbourhood, as well Traders as Farmers, unwilling to part with their Merchandize or Produce of any sort but by way of Barter for other necessaries they stood in need of;—and this so much prevailed among People of all Denominations, that we could not procure our Board in the Town of Winchester at a rate less than five times the former accustom'd Price, Altho' we were provided with most if not all of the foreign articles we used;—and as many of us had no other Money to pay for what we wanted, it was their Interest to make it go as far as they could; nor have any of us exchanged Gold or Silver with the Inhabitants at any Rate, (except in one Instance of three half Johannes spared to a Goldsmith upon his application to work up) or used any means to lessen the Value of the Continental Currency, nor expended Gold or Silver in the purchase of any Articles but such as could not easily be had for other Money.—If, then, the Confidence of the People in that money is diminished, it must be ascribed to other Causes than our Residence here.

These hints will, we hope, be sufficient to show that the causes assign'd for our Removal will not justify so Rigorous a proceeding.

The removing us a hundred miles farther from Home at the most inclement Season of the Year, along a Road rendered by the Weather very difficult to be passed by Carriages, thro' a Country thinly settled, where accommodation for so great a Number of Persons several of whom are aged, and others very infirm of Body, cannot be had, to a place where we are utter Strangers, & where we shall be at such a distance from our distressed & Anxious Familics that we shall seldom hear of their Situation, at a Time when of all others

* See page 102.

our Care and Attention to them is most wanted, are Punishments which could only, with Justice, be inflicted for Crimes of deep Dye.

But this is not all; when we arrive there, an Affirmation or Parole is to be tendered to us, and upon our refusal we are to be closely confined to a House without the use of Pen, Ink or Paper, contrary to the repeated assurances given us that we should be treated with Humanity & Politeness agreeable to our Characters & Stations.

We have heretofore declared in the most positive Terms our Innocence of administring any cause for the Suspicions entertained against us. We have never had any hearing of any kind; nor have been convicted of any offence; for these Reasons we refused to sign the written Promise offered to us at Philadelphia. The same Reasons yet subsist; we are yet as Innocent as then, and therefore cannot make ourselves voluntary Prisoners, and thereby give colour to the proceedings against us.

During our Continuance here, no Provision has been made for our support, nor does it appear that any is made for our Journey to Staunton or during our residence there, as we were given to understand by the Council should be done,—and there are several amongst us who have no other dependance for the support of their Families but their Occupations which they are by this means prevented from following.

We therefore intreat you will take our suffering Case into your serious Consideration, and review the whole Proceedings had against us, when we doubt not you will find that we have given no just cause for our severe Treatment, and that you will not only supersede the Orders given by the Board of War for our Removal, but restore us to our Liberty, that we may return to our Families, whereby all occasion of future Jealousy or suspicion against us will be removed, & you will experience that Peace of Mind which always accompanies the doing Acts of Justice to the oppressed.

And in Order to Convince you that no inconvenience can arise to you from thus discharging us, We solemnly repeat the declaration we have heretofore made, that we have never held any Correspondance verbally or otherwise with the Generals of the Brittish Armies, or any others concerned in concerting or carrying on their Military operations, and are free further to Declare that we will not give them any information of the circumstances of this Country, the disposition of the Inhabitants, or any Public Transactions respecting the Contest between Great Brittain and America which may have come to our Knowledge since our residence here.

Being debarred from making a personal application, we have prevailed upon Alexander White, Esq^{r}, a Gentleman of Character in this Neighbourhood, to wait on both your Bodies with this memorial, who, being well acquainted with the Sentiments of the People &

with our Conduct, will be able to satisfy you further upon any Particulars you may think proper to enquire into.

We are your real Friends,

Sam[l] Pleasants	John Hunt
Thomas Pike.	Jam[s] Pemberton
Tho[s] Affleck	John Pemberton
Elijah Brown	Tho. Wharton
Owen Jones, jr.	Edw[d] Penington
Samuel R. Fisher	Henry Drinker
W[m] Smith	Tho[s] Gilpin
Miers Fisher	Cha. Jervis
Charles Eddy	Thomas Fisher.*
Isr. Pemberton	

Winchester, 12[th] Mo., 19[th], 1777.

Directed,

Memorial of Prisoners at Winchester, read Jan'y 5th, 1778.

Indorsed—"Lancaster, Jan'y 5, 1778. Read in Council."

Col. John Piper to President Wharton, 1777.

Bedford County, Dec[r] 19th, 1777.

Sir,

Permit me Sir to Recomend to you for Council and Direction the Bearer, Mr. Holliday, an inhabitant of Frankstown, one of the fronteer Settlem'ts of our county, who has at his own risk been extreamly active in assembling the people of that settlem[t] together and in purchasing Provisions to serve the Militia who came to their assistance; as there was no person appointed either to purchase Provisions or to serve it out, necessity obliged the Bearer, with the assistance of some neighbours, to purchase a considerable quantity of Provisions for that Purpose. By which the inhabitants have been enabled to make a stand. His request is that he may be suply'd with cash not only to discharge the debts already contracted, but likewise to enable him to lay up a store for future demand. I beg leave Sir to refer to the Bearer for further information, in hopes you'l Provide for their further support, their situation requires immediate assistance.

I am Sir with all
due Respect y[r] Excellancys
most obed[t] H'ble Serv[t],
JOHN PIPER.

Directed,

The Honourable Presidant in Council, Lancaster.

℔ Mr. Holliday.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p.395.

Proclamation of Gen. Washington, 1777.

By his Excellency George Washington, Esq., General and Commander in chief of the forces of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

By virtue of the Power and direction to me especially given, I hereby enjoin and require all persons residing within seventy miles of my head quarters; to thresh out half of their grain by the first day of February, and the other half by the first day of March next ensuing, on pain, in case of failure, of having all that shall remain in sheaves after the periods above mentioned, seized by the commissaries, and Quarter Masters of the army, and paid for as Straw.

Given under my hand at head quarters near the Valley forge in Philadelphia County the 20th day of December, 1777.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.*

By his Excellencys command,

ROB. H. HARRISON, Secry.

Council to Delegates from Penn'a in Congress, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 20th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The usefulness of Waggons in this State, especially at this time of invasion to transport provisions and forage, and for other purposes of the army must be acknowledged; the owners of waggons for a considerable time past have been loosing money at the wages which the honourable Congress has fixt and this is one reason why there is so much difficulty in procuring them when demanded by the Quarter Masters—unless the pay is adequate to the Expence and wear and tear of the waggons and gears, the loss must fall on the owners, when Justice and equity says it should be bourne by the publick Council, are about to put that business on a better footing, they hope than it has been heretofore—but to ensure success to their plan the wages must be increased, this I beg you to hint to Congress perhaps instead of 30*s.* ℔ day for a waggon and four horses, with a driver, 45*s.* to 50*s.* should be allowed, some think more as private people give from 3 to 4 pounds, otherwise when the waggons now in use are worn out they will not be replaced on acct of the high price of horses and Iron as

* See Resolution of Congress to the same effect on page 82.

well as the workmanship, I am convinced of the propriety of having the hire of waggons increased and therefore I give you the sentiments of Council as well as my own on the subject.

I am with respect

Gentlemen,

your very hum'bl Serv^{t}

THOMAS WHARTON, jr.

Directed.

To the Delegates of the State of Pennsylvania in Congress.

The Deposition of Margaret Lederman, 1777.

Of Yorktown, widow, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, doth depose and say.

That on Sunday last in the forenoon a certain Robert Jones of Manchester Township, in the County of York, came to her house in Yorktown to inquire about a Load of hay, which as she understood her son had purchased of the said Jones at Thirty Shillings for which he was to pay him in work at the old price. She asked him what had become of his friend Rankin, & told him she had heard he was in Philadelphia, he asked her who told her so. She replied Mr. Peters. Jones then laughed and said it is so, it is true enough— The Deponent is not certain whether he said Rankin came himself every week, but thinks something of the kind was mentioned, but is positive that the said Jones told her that the said Rankin came frequently out of Philadelphia as far as the rising sun, & that his family either saw him or had a Letter every week. That the said Jones then told her that the said Rankin would be here at York this winter, for that as soon as the Ice was fit to bear, & the Susquehannah frozen over the English would be here. That the said Rankin could travel out from & into Philadelphia, as far as to the rising sun easily for noboddy stops him. That by the said Jones's conversation she understood Rankin was to conduct the English to York that before the said Jones's departure, he desired the Deponent to keep the Matter secret, saying with much earnestness "for God's sake dont tell that I told you of it, or else it will cost me my plantation," but she on her Son's coming from Church, being much terrified with the apprehensions of the Enemy coming this way, told her son what had passed, with many other circumstances which she has now forgot, but from the whole of the said Jones's conversation she was so convinced that the Enemy would be here, that she was casting about for, and con-

sulted her son upon places of Safety, wherein to deposit their valuable effects.

(Copy).

her
MARGARET ⋈ LEDERMAN.
mark

Sworn & Subscribed
before me, 16 Decem^{r}, 1776.
WM. LEAS.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, y^{e} 20 Decem^{r}, 1777.

Sir,

In consequence of the Deposition of Mrs. Margaret Lederman of Yorktown, Copy whereof I have the honor of transmitting your Excellency, the Board concluded no time should be lost in securing the Person of Robert Jones, who it appears, directly or indirectly has had an intercourse with the Enemy. He is now under confinement, and the board beg leave to refer him over to the executive power of the State. His general character throughout the Neighbourhood is that of a Disaffected person, and it is greatly to be apprehended there are many others linked together that make a chain highly necessary to be broken & dispersed in the present situation of Affairs,—This Jones not being so artful and cautious as the rest has inadvertently made public, what he doubtless intended should for the present remain secret, indeed at his first examination he wholly denied the charge.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellencey's
most ob^{t} humble Serv^{t}
JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Directed.

On public Service.

His Excellency Th. Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President of the Ex., Council state of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Lt. Jacob Morgan to Col. Jacob Morgan, Lancaster, 1777.

Reading Decemr 20th, 1777.

Sir,

I Receiv'd his Excellencies orders of December the 5th, Respecting Collecting the Fines from the Delinquents, and also to send a Return of all the Militia of our County who have from time to time turned out in their Several Classes. As for the Collecting the fines from Delinquents we have appointed the Days of Appeal for the Different Battalions throughout the County.

The first of the Appeals for the District belonging to Reading, begining on the 29th of this Instant, and to continue for 3 days, and so on 3 Days in each Battalion Throught the County Successively, as for the Return of the Militia, please to write to me whether the Council Meant that there should be a Return of all the Names of the Militia that Turns out or the Number of each Battalions in Companies.

Please to lay before the Council whether the guard that was appointed in Reading is to be Continued, for their time will soon Expire. Please also to Inform the Council the Necessity to Continue it as to Guarding prisoners to Lancaster and elsewhere and also Guarding them when they are here for the town is hardly ever Clear of them, more or less and also for taking up Deserters and sending them to Camp.

Please to send me some of the Ordinances past the 25th of October Last for Levying the Monies Advanced for Subsitutes &c., for I have but one of them.

I am

yours &c,

JACOB MORGAN.

N. B. Please to send me an Answer by the Bearer, Joseph Tallot.

Directed,

To Col. Jacob Morgan, member of the Council in Lancaster, on Public Service.

President Wharton to Joseph Reed, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster December 20th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Council are greatly indebted to you for your many letters and for the close attention you pay to the Interest of your bleeding country. Our army withdrawing its protection from the inhabitants of Phila., and Bucks Counties fill'd, the House of Assembly and Council with the utmost distress and anxiety for their safety and induced them to remonstrate to congress against their retiring to such a distance from the enemy as to leave the inhabitants an easy prey to their wanton and savage treatment, I however hope the General Officers have altered their plan and that they have reconsidered the situation of our country and will afford that relief to those who they are bound to protect as they have an undoubted right to expect, I understand the State of Virginia purpose to assist us with 5000 Volunteers to serve six months and that a much greater number of the militia are coming from the Eastern States, should these arrive timeously, I hope with the blessing of providence we shall enjoy peace and tranquility in the course of a few months, is it not disgraceful, that a handful of men should possess the capital of one of the most wealthy States and with all our exertions not have force sufficient to destroy every man in the twinkling of an eye if we were so dispos'd. I blush at the Idea, pusilanimity the Conduct of other States I trust will heighten this blush otherwise, I shudder at the Consequences—the Bearer I am told is waiting, he takes a letter from the speaker informing you of your appointment in Congress on which I congratulate your country.

I am
very respectfully
Dear sir,
your very
humble servant
THOMAS WHARTON, Junr.

Directed,

To Honble Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Council to Commodore Hazelwood, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 20th, 1777.

Sir,

I rec'd your Letter by Mr. Bradford dated the 1 Inst., and should have answered it before this time, but expected he would have returned in a few Days and have been the bearer, he has however been detained on acco[t] the exhausted state of our Treasury, and I am afraid he will not, on that account, be able to leave this for Several Days, the first Money that comes in he shall have for the purpose of paying the Mens Wages, and for the Commissary to purchase Provisions with.

I greatly lament the Situation the Fleet has been reduced to, I know every exertion in your power has been made to render it serviceable to your Country, and I am now well convinced, from many Circumstances, that both Officers and Men, in Many of the Boats, merit praise, rather than deserve Censure—the reproaches of some has proceeded, I dare say, from Ignorance of the Orders given, or want of knowledge of their circumstances; and of Others from a desire to throw the blame from off their own shoulders on to those of others. When I wrote you from Head Quarters it was in consequence of a Letter shewn to me by his Excell[y] from Gen. Varnum, wherein some reflections were cast on some of the Boats as not obeying your signals, it was proper you should be made acquainted with that Gentlemans opinion of them, in order that if he was mistaken, you might have an opport[y] to say so; if otherwise that the proper punishment might be inflicted on the delinquents. Your Letter to me, which was read in Council, has satisfied them that the Officers and Men of your Fleet, generally, have behaved with a Spirit and Vigor that does them great Honor, and that the thanks of the Country is due to their services. And the Council desire you will in our name thank them accordingly in the most respectful terms. There are others, it is too true, who have disgraced the American Arms, but it would be hard that the brave & Virtuous should bear the Infamy of the base Conduct of Cowards and Traitors.

I wrote a few Lines to Col. Bradford, the other Day, & mentioned to him my opinion with regard to the place where the Fleet should be secured during the winter. I thought the wharfes near Trenton, of Mr. Richards, & Turner, & Hunt, would be as safe as any I could recollect; but your self and the Navy Board, with your principal officers are more Competent Judges than Council can pretend to be.

I have sent down for the Use of the Boats Crews, 4 hhd Whiskey and 180 pr Shoes, & and as many pair of Stockings; these I hope you have rec'd. I shall endeavor to procure more Clothing, & send them forward as soon as possible. The bearer is waiting, have there-

fore only time to request a Line from you as often as convenient. In the mean time I remain with great respect,

Sir,

your very Hum.

Directed

To Commodore Hazelwood.

MAJOR GEN. JOHN ARMSTRONG TO PRES. WHARTON, 1777.

Camp, near Bartholomews, 22d Decr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

General Washington has requested me to write to Council, that the same number of Militia may be kept up throughout the Winter as are at present in the field, or as thro' the Course of the Campaign, of these with me, I look for a return this evening, but shall not detain the Express for it. I take the number to be about sixteen hundred, and with Genl Potter, yet in Chester County, four or five hundred; of these a considerable number will be free in the beginning of January.

I make no doubt but that my last letters will fully suggest to the Legislature of this State, altho' not immediately address'd to the representative body, as will the natural observation of both branches of Government, the much exposed situation of the Eastern parts of the State, but in a particular manner, the extensive Country on this side the Scuylkill. The Winter possition of the Continental Army, at what is called the Forge or Valley Hill, will, we hope, chiefly preserve the County of Chester, with several other good effects, whilst the attempt for the defence of the Counties of Philadelphia & Bucks, appears to remain chiefly, or rather wholly with the Militia of the State; an effort as arduous as it is laudible, and if attended with only a partial degree of success, will be all that the most sanguine reason can expect.

The Winter arrangement on this side Scuylkill, the General has thought proper, at the same time adding his own instructions, to commit to me. This I have digested in the best manner I can, which hath met with his Excellency's approbation. The essential parts or outlines whereof, are none other than taking a variable station on every leading road, betwixt Scuylkill and Delaware, of which I find there are to the number of nine, that may be called Capitol roads—the general service on each can only be to compete with smaller partys of the enemy, prevent such from proceeding into the Country, & intercept the business of marketing, or any other intercourse of the disaffected with the Enemy, as far as circumstances will admit. Standing Picquets must be placed on every road, and

Patroles aided by a few light Horse to proceed as near the Enemy as may be reasonable. This mode will necessarily throw the troops into detachments—in that way they must be employed, if employed to any good purpose at all. This method will be subject to its inconveniencies, particularly, feeding the Men, changing the Battalions when some are free, delivery of Arms, &c, but in a choice of difficulties, we have nothing for it but the least. The general arrangement with particular instructions to the Commander on each road, is all that the season will permit me to do. The various movements & lodgings are already too hard for me, and severer weather must be at hand. General Potter says he can by no means tarry the Winter. And some Head these people must certainly have very suddenly, else all will go to confusion. I had, therefore, flattered myself that from my letter by Doctor Duffield, a new appointment would have been made, and the person ready for duty. A notice of this sort I hope soon to be favour'd with, & think it already on the road. Having the Hon^{r} to be,

your Excellencie's

Most humb^{e} serv^{t},

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed.

On the publick service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, Lancaster. By a return Express.

Council to Colonel Clement Biddle, 1777.

In Council.

Lancaster, Dec^{r} 22d, 1777.

Sir,

I am informed that there is a quantity of powder in possession of Thomas Himeburg,* powder maker, belonging to the Continent, which should be removed to a place of greater safety. I therefore request you to order as many waggons as the bearer, Thomas Urie, Esq^{r}, may think necessary to remove, that and such other publick stores as may be in the said Himeburg or Robert Towers possession. Waggons returning from Camp to this Town may be employed on this business without putting the publick to any extraordinary expence.

I am with much respect sir,

your very humble serv^{t},

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun^{r}, Pres^{t}.

Directed,

To Colonel Biddle, F. M. General.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 389.

Circular of Council to Dep. Wagon Masters, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 22nd, 1777.

Sir,

It is become absolutely necessary that a regulation should take place respecting waggons, when called into public service in this State, so that the burthen, or advantage may be equally felt. And the Hon'ble house of Assembly have recommended to Council to adopt such salutary measures as shall fully answer the purpose. I am therefore to acquaint you that council hath appointed you waggon master of the County of with full power and authority to you, to appoint a deputy in each township, who shall make a return upon oath, of the number and name of the owners of all the waggons in said townships respectively to you, and a copy of all which returns you are required to send to this council, and one other copy to the waggon Master General of this State, who will attend at head quarters as often as the nature of his office will require. And you are hereby required and directed to obey such orders as you may receive from the Waggon Master General from time to time, and furnish the waggons by him so ordered with the utmost dispatch, calling them out in rotation so that every person may take his tour of duty in his turn, the resolve of Council will inform you of the plan upon which this business is to be conducted. It may sometimes happen that the hon'ble Congress, or the Quarter, or Deputy Quarter Master and forage Masters or their deputies, may require an immediate supply of Waggons, and to wait for orders from the Waggon Master General might prove a publick injury, in such cases you are to afford all the assistance in your power, and inform the Waggon Master General, of your proceedings.

J. B. Smith to Council and Assembly, 1777.

Lancaster, Dec^{r} 22, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a resolution of Congress on the subject of the memorial from your state with which I was charged.* I am happy to inform you that the army has taken quarters in a position which I presume will be agreeable to the State. Congress have now before them a number of resolutions concerning the army which will probably be transmitted in a day or two to the Assembly. On the other

* See p. 104.

leaf you have a copy of an act passed by the State of Virginia which your delegates thought it their duty to transmit to you.

I have the honor to be
with great regard
your excellency's the Council,
& the Hon'ble Assembly's
most humble servant,
JON'A. B. SMITH.

Directed,

On publick service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Act of General Assembly of Virginia Alluded to in preceding, 1777.

At a general assembly began & held at the capitol, in the city of Williamsburg on Monday 20 of October, 1777.

An act for speedily cloathing the troops raised by this commonwealth now in Continental service.

Whereas the probability of a winter campaign hath rendered it indispensably necessary to furnish an immediate supply of cloathing for the troops raised in this commonwealth, & now in the continental service, & the usual method of supply may prove tedious & inadequate to the present emergency.

For remedy herein, Be it enacted, &c., that the Governor with the advice of the Council of State be, & he is hereby impowered to appoint Commissioners in every part of this Commonwealth where he shall think proper, who shall, & they or any two of them, are hereby declared to have power & authority, respectively to seize all linnens, woolens, trimmings, tanned leather, hats, leather breeches, dressed deer skins, shoes & stockings, proper for the use of the army, which may be found in the possession of any person or persons whatever, who hath purchased the same in any of the United States of America for sale. And if any person, who may on good grounds be suspected by the said Commissioners of having concealed any of the said articles in any storehouse or other place, shall refuse to permit such commissioners to have free access thereto the said Commissioners are hereby impowered in company with a justice of the Peace, & by his order to break open any locks or doors, to enable them to discover whether any such articles are concealed, & when the said commissioners, & Justice shall meet with resistance in accomplishing this discovery the

said Justice is hereby directed to call upon the sheriff or any constable for such aid of the County as shall be sufficient to enforce obedience to this act. The said commissioners shall be, & they are hereby required, & empowered to appoint four honest, & reputable housekeepers of the neighbourhood, of whom any three may act who having first taken an oath to be administered by any one of the commissioners, faithfully, & impartially to perform that service, shall appraise such goods in ready money at a reasonable price, having a regard to the circumstances of the times.

The commissioners who shall have performed the services shall give a certificate in writing, after such valuation shall be made to the holders of such goods respectively, distinguishing the particular species, quantity, & value thereof, with an order to be drawn on the treasurer of this commonwealth to pay the said appraised value to the holder, or his order within one month from the date hereof, which order the said Treasurer is hereby directed to pay, and in all cases where such goods shall be applied to the use of the Troops in the continental service, the same shall be charged to the account of the United A. States. And the commissioners or any two of them may imploy or if necessary impress so many workmen as they shall judge sufficient to make up into wearing apparel such cloathing & leather. The wages of any workmen impressed in case of disagreement between the parties shall be settled in the same manner as the value of the materials seized, and orders for such wages, as well as what shall become due to the persons voluntarily impressed, shall be drawn upon the treasurer, paid by him, & charged in manner aforesaid. If any workmen impressed shall refuse, or being a servant his master shall not permit him to work, the servant or master so offending upon complaint of the commissioners or any two of them may by a Justice of the Peace be committed to prison till he shall comply.

The said commissioners shall by some safe conveyance, & in due time transmit to the Treasurer a list of the sums for which they shall have drawn orders together with the names of the persons in whose favor they were drawn, for his more certain information.

And if any person shall be sued for doing anything in execution of this act the defendant may plead the general issue, & give this act in evidence; & if the plaintiff shall be nonsuited, or a judgement pass against him upon a verdict or demurrer, the defendant shall recover double costs, and in all such suits the onus probandi shall lie upon the plaintiff. This act to continue in force 'till last day of Feb'ry next.

J. T.,
C. H. D.

(Copy).

To A. B. &. C.

I do by advice of Council appoint you commissioners at —— & —— & the adjacent parts to execute the act of Assembly, I send herewith. The exceeding great distress of our Troops will I trust

urge you to make your best exertions to procure the articles enumerated, if they are to be found in your quarter, you will please to give me the earliest information of your proceedings herein.

I am, &c.,
P. HENRY.

Williamsburg, Nov'r 29, 1777.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, 22d Decem'r, 1777.

Sir,

The unhappy situation of the American Prisoners of war confined in Philadelphia & the City of New York—renders it indispensably necessary that measures be immediately taken to afford them every possible relief. Had the enemy on their part observed a Conduct equally humane with that which has been inviolably adhered to in the Treatment of the British Prisoners of War, the measure that is now requisite to be adopted, to render the Captivity of our prisoners in any degree supportable, would have been unnecessary, but so far from observing even the common line of humanity, their conduct towards our Prisoners thro' the several stages of the war, has been marked with more than savage cruelty, and has rendered it necessary for Congres to send in Provisions for their support least a greater number shou'd fall a sacrifice to their inhumanity.

I am to acquaint your Excellency that Elias. Boudinot, Esq., Commissary General of Prisoners finds it impossible to procure a sufficient quantity of Flour and Beef without paying a price too extravagant to be allowed, and that so little regard is paid to the Currency, that delays may be attended with many ill consequences to the prisoners without the Interposition of the Civil Authority. I am therefore in the name of the Board of War, most earnestly to request your Excellency will be pleased to furnish Mr. Boudinot or his Deputy with every assistance in the procuring of a sufficient quantity of Flour, or Beef as may be thought necessary, not only for the immediate assistance of our Prisoners, but also to raise a sum of Money to purchase Cloathing to cover them. Mr. Boudinot will wait on your Excellency with this, to whom they beg leave to refer.

I have the honour
to be Sir, your
very ob^{t} Serv^{t},
JOS. NOURSE, D. S.

Directed,

On publick Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Council Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Jacob Morgan, Jr., to V. P. Bryan, 1777.

Reading, Decem^r 23rd, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I understand that all the Stocking Weavers are still at Germantown with their Looms, and out of work, supposed to be about One Hundred, also 6 or 7 Tanners, who have large Tan Yards full of Leather, part of which is nearly Tanned; they might easily be removed.

Query, are they not objects worthy notice of Council. Should they enemy determine to stay or leave Philad^a this winter they will probably destroy them, which would be a great loss to th s State. Are not the Row Gallies in danger of falling into the enemys hands this winter, had they not better be striped of their Sails and Riging & Sunk.

If any letters should come to Lancaster for me, I should be much obliged you If you'll please to forward them to me at this place, as I shall not be able to come to Lancaster till the week after Newyear, also the Newspapiors—please to send me the Newspapiors.

I am, Dear Sir,

With Respect,

Your verry Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, Jr.

P. S. The bearor, Mr. Baker, is a Gentleman well acquainted with the dry good buisiness, and would be glad to be employed in the Cloathing buisiness, If this State are to Cloath her own Troops, he will lay his proposalsbefore Council.

The Hon^ble George Bryan, Esq^r.

Col. John Bull to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Dear Sir,

The Great Loss of Gen'l Erwin has Thrown much more of the Duties of the Field upon me, having by a Genl Order the Immediate Charge (under Gen'l Armstrong) of the Second Brigade; and Since the Grand Army has movd over the Schuilkil they have been verry Scant of Provisions, and none Left for the suport of the Troops under the Comand of Gen'l Armstrong, I have, therefore, Been Necessiated to Provide Beef & Flour for the Whole of the Militia on the East side of Schuilkil. The method I have taken to Procure the Former has been by Sending Down Proper Comands from the

Brigade Towards the Enemies Lines; they Drive of those Cattle they find fit for Beef, Leaving the Milch Cows for use of the owners, Giving Receipts for y^e^ Quantity, Directed to y^e^ Comisary of Purchases. Some times, Carts Loaded with Pork, Flour, &c., have been Detected Going to y^e^ Enemy, and Likewise Brought to Camp with the Drivers, &c., by this means we not only suply our Camp with Provisions, but thereby Deprive the Enemy of those advantages they might have in Coming out in Forageing Parties. The Procureing of Flour is attended with a Dificulty, the Reason of which is the Principal motive which has Induced me to Trouble y^e^ Council with this Line, to Inform them of the Disadvantage which is Likely to attend the Limitation on the Prices of Grain in this State, particularly Wheat. In the Farmers Present Situation he is obliged to Pay three times the Price for Comon Labour at Least, and often more. The Enormous Price (or Rather Extortion) of all Kind of Smithwork, Shoe and Harness Leather, Salt, &c., which are articles which the Farmer Cannot Dispence with, as well as many other things Proportionately Dear, makes it more then Probeble that the farmers will be Finely Discouraged from any attempts to Raise more than will Barely suport their families. I think the takeing the Grain at y^e^ Late Stated Prices Seems Like the Fable of Killing the Goose for the Benefit of Her Eggs.

In the State of New Jersey the Legislature have allow'd Twelve Shilling ℔ Bushel for Wheat, the same ℔ Gallon for Liquor or Whiskey, and Reduced the Price of Salt, Leather, &c., a List of which Rates I have taken the Liberty to Inclose, which Perhaps you may not think Impropper to Lay before your Assembly, If not, I Flatter myself, as my whole motive is the Good of my Country, it will appologize for Giving you this Trouble.

I have not had a Return from Gen'l Potter of his Numbers Since his Brigade has been Divided, but believe it to be about four Hundred. A Return of the Second Brigade I have Inclosed.

I have the Honour to be

Your obd^t^ Humb^l^ Servt.

JNO. BULL.

To the Honl. y^e^ Executive Council.
Dec. 24th, 1777, 6 oClock, A. M.

N. B. By Certain Inteligence Just Reed from Head Quarters the Enemy are in a Large Body in Chester County, with Gen'l How at their Head, In Consequence of which, I am this moment to March to Germantown, or Below Towards the Enemy, with 6 Riegts. of Militia.

Directed,

His Ex'cy Thomas Wharton, Esq^r^., Lancaster.

Thos. Jones, D. C. G., to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp, Valley Forge, 24th Decr, 1777.

Gentlemen,

So great is the want of Beef and Bread in the Camp, that His Excellency the Commander in Chief, has ordered out an officer and twenty two men from each Brigade in the Army, to collect and send into Camp a temporary supply; they are now out in the vicinity of Camp, but this Country is drained and affords a very trifle. Another party will march to morrow morning a greater distance, and it is to be hoped will be more Successful. This mode of collecting provisions is very distressing to the Country, and by no means agreeable to his Excellency. Yesterday, last night and this day, about seven hundred Cattle are brought in by the purchasing Commissaries, so that in Beef a Weeks allowance may now be depended on. But Flour is quite Exhausted, and tho we know the Commissary General has a considerable quantity at Lancaster, Yorktown and Wrights ferry, but a trifle has come in for many days. We have wrote the different Commissaries to forward flour from those Magazines, their answer is the Quarter Master do not furnish Wagons. We beg your Excellency and the Executive Council to give such assistance to the Quarter Master as will enable him to furnish the Commissary, at Lancaster and Wrights ferry, with Teams sufficient to bring on daily One Hundred Barrels from that part which is most contigious at present to our Camp. One half that quantity, we have reason to believe, will come in from Jersey, and the Mills now *here compeld* to grind for us, which will make good the daily Consumption.

We beg your indulgence for this application; we are distressd beyond discription, and must in such cases apply to those in whose power it is to aid us, and we flatter ourselves it is in the power of the President and Council of this State to order Waggons sufficient to bring on the above supply daily. We are with the greatest respect and esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your most obdt h'ble Servant,

THOMAS JONES, D. C. G., of Issues.

JOHN CHALONER, A. C., of Purchases.

Directed,

On Publick Service—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President, and the Honourable the Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

By Jas Burnsides, Esqr.

Gen. Roberdeau to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Dec^r 24th, 1777.

Sir,

The Delegates of this State are honored with your favor of the 20th, which shall forthwith be laid before Congress, to obtain a further regulation of the hire of Waggons. An ambiguity in Gen^l Armstrongs Letter, and the entire Silence of Council on the Subject, leaves us in doubt respecting their pleasure. If a repeal of the Resolve of Congress of one Substitute for two Yeoman is meant, it falls in with my judgment, and shall be glad to have it signified.—Col^l Smith has forwarded to you the Resolve of Congress in answer to the Remonstrance of our State, also copy of a Law of Virginia to suppress Monopoly.

I should be very sorry, my worthy patriotic friend M^rs. Farguson, should be involved in the same predicament with her Husband as to her interest, when her bosom glowes with her love to these States, and has displaied such a specimen of hēroism as will make her name renowned thro history by alienating herself from a beloved husband on Account of his taking part against her Country; this is no finesse as some have imagined, who do not know the virtuous principles and magnanimity of this Lady, for from my youth, I dare pawn my honor for her. I beg Council will take this Case under their particular notice and shield this Lady, at least from the indiscretion of an Officer, until they can come to a deliberate resolution, for being only with a female friend equally deprived, and on the same account, of the advice and protection of their most near friends, who are with the Enemy, deserves particular attention, which I take the Liberty to recommend to the Hon^ble Council, and thro them to the Legislature, as the greatest obligation they can lay on me.

I am most respectfully, Sir,

Y^r most ob^t humb^l Serv^t

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^r., President of the Hon^ble Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favored by Col. Boudinot.

Council to Comm'r Hazelwood, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 24, 1777.

Sir,

I had the pleasure of writing to you of the — Inst., but have since recd none of your Letters—one from Coll. Bradford, of the Navy Board, dated the 19th Inst.,* came to hand this day, in which he informs me that the four Hhds of Whiskey, and the Shoes & Stockings, sent by Council for the Use of the Fleet of this State, was recd. Mr. Crispin, the Commissary, also acknowledges their receipt, and I have no doubt that a proper distribution will be made of them. I am very anxious for the Safety of the Fleet, especially as our Army is obligd to return so far from the Delaware to occupy convenient Quarters, that they cannot afford immediate relief in case the Enemy should think it advisable to attempt its destruction.

Suppose you should order the Gallies, &c., to be immediately stript, and the Sails, Riggin, &c., with the Guns & Stores, to be removed to a distance in some place of Safety; after which, the Gallies to be Scuttled in some Safe Creek, where they can be raised at a convenient time? This I hint for the Consideration of you & the Navy Board; but, perhaps some more eligible plan may be adopted by you & them, to whom this matter is refered. It is pleasing to Council to know that there still remains five Hundred Men belonging to the Gallies. These Men are well worth preserving—they have been tried and deserve well of their Country, & should be kindly treated. The most favorable attention, the Council have no doubt, they will meet with. As you are in possession of Small Arms & Amunition, as well as Cannon, some of which would answer for Field Pieces—those men could be traind to the Use of Small Arms & the Working of Cannon, and soon be enabled, if a proper Breast Work were thrown up, to defend the Craft against a much greater Number of the Enemy; And it would be the means of keeping those People & their Officers together, so that they may render essential service to their Injured Country while they remain in Jersey, thro' the course of the winter, & be ready to obey the Call of Council in the Spring, as early as the season will permit.—At this distance I cannot advise respecting those Officers of the Boats who have no Command, or of those who merit none; time will no doubt provide for some, and proper treatment will discharge the others.

I hope in a short time to be enabled to furnish Mr. Bradford, Paymaster, with money, as well as the Commissary, to furnish the Seamen with Provissions during the Winter.

I am, with respect, Sir,

Your very Hum. St.

Herewith is some Newspapers for you & your Officers perusal.

* See page 110.

The enclosed letter to his excellency, Governor Livingston, you will please to forward to him by a safe hand, the contents of which you will see by the copy thereof, also enclosed.

Council to Governor Livingston, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 25, 1777.

Sir,

Commodore Hazelwood will be under the necessity of laying up our little Fleet in some place in New Jersey, for the Winter: Council have recommended him, with your Excellency's approbation to employ the men belonging to it, which will probably consist of about five hundred, in throwing up a breast-work in some convenient place where they can defend the cannon, stores, &c., until the spring. We shall be happy in co-operating w^th^ your Excellency in any plan you may devise wherein these men may be employed for the service of the General cause, either in conjunction with the Militia or otherwise. The Commodore will lay before you, for your approbation, the measures which he may propose to adopt. Should your Excellency think proper to order the Militia of your State to afford the Commodore any assistance, in case the enemy should attack him, the Council will thank you for a communication of such parts of the order as may be necessary, to the Commodore, that he may be able to act in conjunction with them.

I am, &c.,

T. W., &c.

Directed,

To His Excellency William Livingston, Esq^r^, Gov^r^ of New Jersey.

Colonel John Bull to President Wharton, 1777.

Dec. 25, 7 a Clock A.M.

Sir,

According to my yesterdays note I have been with the Brigade Down to the Enemies Lines on the three most publick Roads, in Three small collumns, taking the Center on y^e^ Germantown Road my Self, Coll. Antes, with two Batt^ns^ on y^e^ Ridge Road, and Coll. Lacy, of Bucks, with 2 Batt^ns^ on or near y^e^ frankfort Road, and

marched them all Within Musquet Shot of the Enemies Lines, and Between third and fourth street Continued on the Right of the Germantown. I drew up my little Division and haveng Our Two Twelve Pounders, with 2 comps of artilery, I rather streehd my orders by Sending them 8 well diracted Cannon Ball, Which no Doubt Took Place near y^e^ Church. It would have given your Excy. Pleasure to Se the Countenace of the Generality of my officers and many of the men, Who I am convinced I Could have Led up to their Redoubts, which would have done no more than alarm them, Which was all I was Directed to Do, In order to Call their attention from Plundering in Chester County. We Wish'd them a Merry Crismes by causeing them to Beat to arms and fire their Cannon from the Lines from all Qurs., their Ball Raked our Little Parade both on Right and Left, but without the Least Damage. We brought of one Prisoner, some of their Horses, &c.

I am

your Excy's obedient

Hu'bl S'vt,

JN^o^ BULL.

Please to Excuse want of Paper, Bad Pen, &c.

Directed,

His Excellency Tho^s^ Wharton, Esq.,

GENERAL ROBERDEAU TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, Dec^r^ 26^th^, 1777.

Sir,

A letter is just come to hand giving the most melancholy discription of the situation of our army on account of difficiencies in the Commissary's and Q^r^ matter's Departments. With respect to the article of cloathing, 2800 are obliged to retire in a naked condition, unfit alone from that consideration for duty, that he was about to apply a remedy by taking supernumerary articles, particularly from the disaffected, agreeable to a resolve of Congress, but desisted on an assurance from a Committee of this State, that provision would be made without delay in a manner more to the satisfaction of the Inhabitants, but although their own Troops suffered in the most extream degree, either no supply had been sent, or so scanty that it did not deserve to be mentioned. Thus much from memory, I intend Council an extract of the Letter if I can obtain it. This is no time for recrimination, otherwise I could trace our present distress to other sources, and indeed Gen^l^ Washington speaks out for the first

time and charges the principle difficiency viz., in the Commissary's department, to the arrangement made by Congress, I foresaw the Consiquences and withstood the measure, but in vain.

I conjure the State in an excentric way to provide flour and fat Cattle, and to this end to employ men of entegrity and activity in different parts in the vicinity of the enemy, otherwise I have no other prospect but that the army will be reduced to the necessity of abandoning their post and disperse. An Officer of merit writes to this effect, that he could shed Tears of blood for the opportunities lost thro want of provisions within these few days, of cutting off the flower of the British Army, in an excursion, I think, towards Chester. In short our last advices say not a hoof of any kind was left, & little or no flour. For the Lord's sake let us exert every nerve to save our Country, which must now be done by immediate supplies from this State until we get things into order.

A late letter from france says the King had given orders to the Commissary of the port where two of our frigates were fitting to supply them out of his own Arsinels. A frigate lately launched in france is also fitting. I am with great respect,

Sir,

y^r^ most ob^t^ hum. Serv't,

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

York Town, Dan'l Roberdeau.

Col. Benj. Flower to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp Great Valley, 26^th^ Decem^r^, 1777.

Hon^d^ Sir,

I have accidentally mett Thos. Urie, Esq^r^, at Camp, who was going to Allen Town with an order on Mr. Stiles for all the Stores in his possession & Care, either the propperty of the Continent or of this State, without specifying either Quality or Quantity.

As Mr. Stiles has in his Care all the Ordnance Stores left at Allen Town for the use of the army, and Mr. Urie only wanting Rifles, a small quantity of Powder & Flints, I presumed your Excellency did not mean that he was to receive a larger quantity of Mil^y^ Stores than was sufficient for the present emergency. I therefore have ordered the Com^y^ of Ord. Stores at Lebanon, (where the greatest part of our Stores are moved to,) to deliver to Mr. Urie

or his Order, three hundred pounds of powder and two thousand Flints, and have wrote to the Com^{y} of Stores at Allen Town to procure all the Rifles there, and send them on to Lancaster to Mr. Henry, agreeable to the request of Mr. Urie. As his Horse had given out, and himself fatigued, I have undertaken the Business for him. I shall leave Camp in a day or two, when your Excellency may rest assured that every part of the Business in my power shall be duly attended to.

I am well aware of the propriety of this States being supplied with Mil^{y} Stores from those of the Continent, as all the Stores of this State have at different times been procured for the use of the Continental Army, and since our removal from Phil^{a}, all our Stores have got mix'd in such a manner that a distinction became very difficult and, I believe, impossible. Therefore, all supplies necessary for the Defence of the State ought to be had of the Continental Stores, at least whilst the war is carried on in it; in order to accomplish which it will be necessary to procure an Order from the Hon^{l} the Board of War for the United States, for such Mil^{y} Stores as you may want from time to time, which order I shall chearfully and punctually attend to as far as lies in my power.

In future our Stores will be kept at Lebanon and Carlisle, to which place you'l please to direct.

I have the Honour to be

your Excellency's

most Obed. Hum^{l} Serv^{t},

BENJ. FLOWER, Col^{o},

Com^{y} Gen. M^{y} Stores.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency, Tho^{s} Wharton, Esq^{r}, Pres^{t} of y^{e} State of Pennsy^{a}, Lancaster.

Favor'd by T. Urie, Esq^{r}.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1777.

In Council,

Lancaster, December 26th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I did myself the honor to address you the other day on the subject of waggons, but omitted to mention to you that many complaints are made by the owners of those who have already been employed, that they have not received any pay. This complaint Council has too much reason to believe is justly founded, and that it is one

reason why there is so much difficulty in procuring waggons for public service; the inadequate pay that Congress has heretofore allowed is another, and a very principal one. Council is so well convinced of the necessity of a law, to put the matter upon a more equal and sure footing, that they have applied to the legislature for that purpose, and have reason to believe one will shortly be passed. But unless the wages or hire of waggons is increased, very few, they think, will be induced to keep teams. I enclose you a copy of a letter from the deputy commissary General of issues and assistant commissary of purchases,* by which you will find what distress the army is like to be in from the want of waggons, notwithstanding no opposition has ever been made to the empressing of Waggons by the commissaries of purchases, Quarter Masters, or other officers in power, altho' Council much regret the practice, and think it ought to be reprobated. Yet they have not opposed it least it should prove injurious to the army: and on the contrary, have given every encouragement, and even aid by warrant to impress, to the Quarter Masters: But there are still complaints that waggons cannot be procured. Whether this is owing to those officers not attending timely to their duty, to the owners of waggons not receiving their pay, or that the pay which they are to receive is inadequate, I shall not pretend to say; but that there is great difficulty in procuring them must appear to all.

Council are repeatedly called upon for the pay of those waggons which have been in publick service, by order of the Quarter Master General, and they have been referred to the Quarter Masters for it; who, if they had not been possessed of money to discharge the demands of the owners, Council had hopes they would, at least, have made the quarter master General acquainted with that circumstance, so that those people should not have had any just reason to complain on that score. As this is a matter of great consequence to those concerned, Council are of opinion that commissioners should be appointed in each county, immediately to liquidate those demands, and the people satisfied on that head. If this is not done it cannot be expected that waggons can much longer be obtained on any terms whatsoever.

I have the honor [illegible]

to be with great respect

Gentlemen,

Your very humble servant.

P. S. I rec[d] General Roberdeau's letter which I laid before Council.

* See page 130.

Council to Col. John Piper, 1777.

In Council,
Lancaster, Decem^{r} 27th, 1777.

Sir,

I this Day received your Letter of the 19th* Inst by M^{r} Holliday, who, you inform Council, has taken the trouble to provide the Militia that have been called to the assistance of the Inhabitants against the Ravages of the savages, with Provisions; and requesting Council to furnish that Gentleman with Money, as well to discharge the Debts he has already contracted for that purpose, as to enable him to procure a further supply upon the like occasion.

It is not understood that the Expence of supplying the Militia with provisions upon this occasion is to fall upon the State in particular; but Council being very desirous to give every possible assistance to relieve the inhabitants from their present distresses, have so far comply'd with your request as to advance to Mr. Holliday the sum of £ , which they have charged to your account. You will please, therefore, to attend to this matter, & see that no waste happens, nor no fraud be suffered to creep into the accounts, otherwise difficulties may arrise in Liquidating them.

I am

with respect S^{r},

your very Hum. S^{t}.

N. B. Congress expect that provisions purchased for the Militia, will be at the , and at the Cheapest rate.

Directed,

To Coll. Piper.

Justices of Berks Co. to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, December y^{e} 27th, 1777.

May it Please your Honor,

We the Subscribers, three of the Justices of the peace in Berks County, have on the first Nov^{r} Last Acquainted your Honor Concerning the Measures taken in this County in Pursuance of an order from the Council, Dated Philadelphia, June y^{e} 17th, and in Pursuance of a Letter, Dated at Phila. the 31st July Last, Directed to the

* See page 115.

Justice of Berks County, Calling and Requireing of us to Send 350 Waggons from this County to Phila. to Carry out Stores & Provisions &c., &c., and a Large Number of Teams has been sent to Phila. for the same purpose &c., and these people every now & then calling upon us and Continually Tormenting us for their pay. We therefore pray your Honor will be pleased to lay this matter before the Council, that such Measures may be taken to satisfy these People that some Person or Persons may be appointed in this Town and furnished with a sum of Money to pay their Just Demands.

Sir,

we are in Respect

your Dutiful most Obedient

Humble Servants,

HENRY CHRIST,
JACOB SHOEMAKER,
JOHN LUDWIG,

Directed,

To The Hon. Thomas Wharton, Jr., President &c., at Lancaster.

{ favour of
D^r^ Swan, Esq. }

Col. Clem. Biddle to President Wharton 1777.

Moorehall, December 27, 1777.

Sir,

I received your favour by Mr. Urie, and should be ready to render him every service in my power, but being disappointed in the powder & arms here he was in no want of waggons, the powder & saltpetre at Hembergs Powder mill, may be worked up there with great safety, as it is directly in the rear of our encampment 10 miles distance & in Case of need I will attend to the removing it, but if you should choose it sent to any other place on receiving your Orders it shall be immediately done.

I am much Obliged to you for the Copy of the regulation for Foraging which I was not before furnish'd with. I beg leave to suggest that the prices being fixed by the Legislature would give much

satisfaction as I have now Only the rates lately establish'd & repeald to govern myself by.

I am
with great Respect
Sir, your mo. Obedient Servt
CLEMENT BIDDLE.

Directed,
To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.
Favoured by
Thos. Urie, Esq.

Robert Levers to T. Matlack, 1777.

Easton, December 27th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

The Circular Letter by Favor of the Honble Jacob Arndt, Esquire, I received, and such papers as are in my hands, relative to the offices I have the Honor to hold in this County, with the Records, are in a Condition to be conveyed from hence at a minute's Notice. And I beg you will please to assure the Supreme Executive Council, that I shall strictly regard the injunctions laid upon me. And whenever the Records of the County of Bucks shall be delivered to my care, I shall likewise secure them effectually.

I have lately called on Mr. Gordon again, thro' Mr. Clymer, for such papers as are yet in his hands belonging to the offices I hold, and that Gentleman has promised to deliver them. He has lately been greatly indisposed, so that I have not seen him since Mr. Clymer mentioned the matter to him, which was at our last Court.

All the Public papers with me, I keep in the Upper Part of my House, as deeming it most secure, that is in the room I sleep, and if the unhappy exigency of our affairs require a removal, I shall see them safe conveyed to the House of John Van Campen, Esquire, as directed. I delayed a few days writing, expecting that perhaps the Bucks County Records might have been forwarded, of which, if there had been an unhappy necessity for it, I would have informed Council thereof,

I am, Sir,
With the greatest Respect,
Your Most obedient servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,
To Timothy Mattlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Robert Levers to President Wharton, 1777.

Easton, December 27, 1777.

Sir,

On the 23d Instant, at night, I received your Excellency's Letter of the 16th, and wrote to Mr. Creider immediately, requesting him to furnish, with all dispatch, Four Waggons, to repair to Boston for cloathing, I have not yet heard from him, but as Four Brigades of Waggons are ordered to be raised directly, to convey the sick passing thro' this place from Princetown, I expect Mr. Creider will raise these Four Waggons at the same time.

As soon as the Indigo is moved, I will see each cask weighed carefully, and transmit an Invoice thereof to your Excellency, as well as to Mr. Joseph Hubely of Boston. Iron, I learn, may be had at Mayburry's works, the nearest, at One hundred & Fifty Pounds ℔ Ton; and as soon as I shall receive instructions from your Excellency, respecting the purchase of the Iron, will leave nothing undone that may forward the Waggons on their Journey with the greatest Dispatch.

I have the Honor to subscribe myself,
Your Excellencey's
Most obedient
Humble Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esquire.

Col. James Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Redner, Decr 28th 1777.

Sir,

On Monday last the enemy came out with a view to Furridge, they encamped along the Road from Grays ferry to the heights below Darbey there was a detatchment sent down from our army to this place, who with Morgans Riflemen and the Militia went down to there lines and cept them Close in there lines. On Tusday we took 13 of there light horse and ten of there horsmen, the next day two more of there horses and there Riders, the have been prevented from plundering the Inhabitance as they usely do, there has been but little scrimidging, we had one Killed and two wounded, we have taken upwards of twenty prisoners, and a number of Deserters have cum

in, they have carreyed off a larg Quantity of Hay from the Islands and Darbey. It is said that the Highlanders are gon to New York, and Lord Cornwalas is certanly go to great Britan. I think they have provided there winter Furidge and fuale, and they will bless themselves and sit down in peace this winter in the City—this day they have Returned to the City. My Brigade is near Breacking up, they will be all discharged about the fifth of nixt month but about one hundred men, his Excellency, General Washington, desired me to let you know that he expected that you would keep out the same number you had now in the field all winter.

I am your Excellencys

Most obedant Humble servt,

JAS. POTTER.

Directed,

On Public Service to His Excellancey Thomas Wharton, Esqr., In Lancaster.

Brig. Gen. Anth'y Wayne to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Mount Joy, 28th Decr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I was favoured with yours of the 12th Instant, but the enemy being then out prevented me from acknowledging it sooner.

I can't help expressing both surprise and concern at the Councils directing the Clothing Collected in this State, into the hands of the Clothier General, especially after being Informed that the other States were Collecting Clothing for the use of their own Troops; Clothing for the Eastern Troops has actually arrived, they are now comfortable whilst ours are perishing.

His Excellency has also Informed me that Gov. Henry of Virginia, has ordered on Clothing for the Troops of that State which he expects every hour.

Thus Sir, whilst other States are exerting every power (under a Resolve of Congress) to provide for their own Troops only, you are following the generous course of providing for the whole, this Sir, is being generous out of time. Its an old adage, that a man ought to be just before he can be permitted to be generous, the case applies in full force here. Supply the immediate wants of your own Troops first, and then give scope to your Generosity.

Enclosed is an estimate of the cost of 650 Suits of Uniform which Mr. Zantzinger has provided for the Troops of this State; he is in great want of Money, I wish you to assist him to the cash he wants

and to take some Effectual Method to Cloth the Troops in the best, speediest and neatest manner possible.

Least you should be under a Deception with regard to the mode in which the Clothing in the hands of the Clothier General is Distributed, I am to inform you that they are delivered in proportion to their wants, (or in plain English) to the number of men in each Regiment throughout the army.

Judge then how far inadequate our proportion must be to our wants, whilst the Troops from the other States have an equal Dividend in addition to their other Supplies.

At this inclement Season one third of our Troops are totally Destitute of either Shoes, Stockings, Shirts or Blankets, so that unless they receive an immediate supply of these Necessary Articles, Sickness, Death & Desertion will be the inevitable Consequence.

I am your Excellencies most Ob^{t}
Hum. Ser't
ANT'Y WAYNE, B. G.

P.S. I have directed Mr. Zantzinger to call on you for money, I wish you to order the Clothier Genl. to estimate the price of the Clothing, which agreeable to a Resolve of Congress is to be in proportion to the pay of the officers and men, the State to be at the cost of the Surplus.

A. W.

Directed,
On Publick Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Lancaster.
℔ Express.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO COL. ARCHIBALD LOCHRY, 1777.

In Council.
Lancaster, December 29th, 1777.

Sir,

Altho' it is not understood that the Expence of supplying the Militia with provisions, while they are engaged in the service of the United States, is to fall on this State in particular. Yet Council desirious of doing every thing in their power—have sent you, by Colonel John Proctor, the sum of five hundred pounds, to purchase provisions with. It is expected that the provisions be purchased on the lowest terms and at the first hand.

I am sir,
your very humble servant,
THOMAS WHARTON, Jun^{r}, Pres^{t}.

Directed.
To Colonel Archibald Lochry.

General Roberdeau to V. B. Bryan, 1777.

York Town, Dec^{r} 29th, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote Council, two Days ago, to which please to be refered. Rev^{d} M^{r} Batwell, on an application to be enlarged on security on his parole, accompanied with a certificate from his Physician, that fresh air and exercise were absolutely necessary to his recovery, obtained the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of Congress the Rev^{d} M^{r} Batwell should "be discharged out of confinement on his taking an oath of allegiance "to the State of Pennsilvania, or on his refusal that he should be "allowed to go with his family into the City of Philad^{a}." The delicacy of interfering with this state was agitated, together with the very low condition of the petitioner whose life was reported to be in iminent danger, & might add to the number of marters in the esteem of the disaffected, who interested themselves in his behalf, nevertheless the prayer of the petition was not attended to, but the above alternative given, for Congress did not know how, otherwise, to get rid of importunity, and apprehended this step from all circumstances, would not be disagreeable to the State. I think the above resolve is a specimen of treatment Congress would wish to other disaffected persons in every State, as was at large said in debate, with much concern that decisive measures had not long since been taken with all Enemies to the Independence of America. A Committee are appointed to take into consideration the deplorable condition of our army, and to report to-morrow. I make no doubt that the most vigorous measures will be recommended to be *immediately* taken, as without, the army must disperse as mentioned in my last. My situation is extremely delicate on this occasion; the ruin of our Army, or the interference with the police of the State, I apprehend will be the alternative set before me; under these circumstances I should be glad of advice and assistance. The House of Burgesses, in Virginia, have unanimously consented to the confideration, as handed to them with orders to their Delegates, to confirm it on the 10th March.

I could wish the State would fav^{r} their Delegates with Dunlap's paper constantly. I should be glad you would furnish me with the two or three last papers. Our State, I understand, have published a bill, which I have not seen, respecting the measures recommended to the northward, and I am told have recited the recommendation of Congress, which exposes the views of Congress; this was never intended, and may frustrate their design.

I am respectfully sir,

y^{r} most ob^{t} hum$_{o}$ serv^{t},

In Congress, June 17. DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed.—To The Ho^{ble} George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President, Lancaster. Daniel Roberdeau, York Town.

President Wharton to Joseph Hubley, 1777.

Lancaster, December 29th, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you the other day, informing you that I had directed Robert Levers, Esqr., of Easton, to employ waggons, and send to you a few barrels of Indigo, which you were requested to sell, and lay out the proceeds in woollens and linnen to clothe the troops of this State. Since that letter was sent, Council has met with a parcel of linnen, which they reckon a fortunate Circumstance, and therefore, I request you to purchase woollens only, and this I hope you will do with expedition. I have not heard whether Mr. Levers has succeeded in getting waggons or not, but have little doubt of it.

I am sir,

your very humble servant,

THOMAS WHARTON. Jr, Pt.

Mr. Joseph Hubley, of Boston.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress.

Decr 29th, 1777.

Resolved,

That all Persons, Inhabitants of any of these United States, who have voluntarily inlisted, or shall so inlist with, or join the Enemy of the said States, and have been, or shall be taken in arms, shall be confined in close Jails, subject to be delivered up to the respective States, to which they belong, to be dealt with agreeably to the Laws thereof, and that the Commissary Gen'l of Prisoners, and his Deputies, be directed, from Time to Time, to transmit to the respective States, the Names of such of their Citizens who shall have been made Prisoners.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Delayed by oversight at the Secretary's Office.

Goods seized in Swamp in Bucks County, 1777.

Invoice of Sundry Woolens belonging to Joseph Carson, which were seized by the Council of Pennsylvania, at the Great Swamp,* in Bucks County, and applied to the Cloathing of the Continental Troops. Being the Cloathing which General Washington Ordered Colonel Clement Biddle to seize.

	(BALES.)			
No. 33,	Containing 22 pieces of Plains,	373 @ 80	1492	
47,	Containing 10 p's of B'd Cloth,	351¼ @ 100	1756	5
48,	Containing 10 pieces do	362¾ @ 100	1813	15
57,	Containing 10 pieces do	386¼ @ 100	1931	5
58,	Containing 10 pieces do	366½ @ 100	1832	10
73,	Containing 10 pieces do	360½ @ 100	1802	10
83,	Containing 10 p's of Coating,	302¾ @ 100	1513	15
94,	Containing 10 p's of Frize,	328¼ @ 100	1642	10
100,	q^ty 7 p's Coating,	194 @ 100	970	
5 Bales,	q^ty 48 p's of Shalloons,	@ £26 5	1260	
	29 Coarse Coverlids,	@ 20½	29	
			16043	10
Orders to the Treasurer, 7^th January, 1778,			7000	
			9043	10

For £9043 10s.

In Council.

Lancaster, April 10th, 1778.

Pay to Mr. Joseph Carson, or his order, the sum of nine thousand and forty three pounds and ten shillings, ballance due on the within account, and charge the same, with the order heretofore drawn, on this account, to James Mease, Esquire, Clothier General of the United States.

THOMAS WHARTON, Junr., Presid't.

To David Rittenhouse, Esqr., Treasurer.

Received the Contents in full,

JOSEPH CARSON.

* See page 92, and Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 393, 397.

Francis L. Lee to President Wharton, 1777.

War office, Dec^{r} 30th, 1777.

Sir,

Congress have received such unexpected & distressing acounts from the General relative to the Situation of the Army that they have appointed a Committee to fall upon immediate Methods for supplying them with Provisions. They are so much in Want of an instant supply, owing to Delays & Embarassments in the Commissary's Department & other unexpected Causes that however plenty we shall have them in future, at present, at least, a Removal out of this state must be the immediate Consequence of even a short Continuance of their present Circumstances. An instant supply must be procured from this State for the support of the Army until the supplies expected from the neighbouring States arrive. As it may give Umbrage to the Inhabitants the Committee deplore the Necessity *they* are under of sending Officers with Parties to collect such Cattle, Flour & Grain as the Army wants, without the least Delay, as the Crisis is too alarming to admit of the Business being postponed on any Consideration. It will be improper to communicate the real situation of the Army, but with the utmost Prudence & Caution. Your Excellency will therefore judge in what Manner the Concurrence of this State is to be procured, as their vigorous Exertions are necessary in Co-operation with those of the Committee, who will, at least till they see the Business properly conducted, as doubtless it will be, by the Government of this State, be obliged to give orders for the taking, conveying & driving all Cattle, Hogs, Pork, Flour & Grain fit for their Consumption, to the Army, the Persons employed for this Purpose giving certificates to the owners, expressing as nearly as possible the Weight & Quality of them, & agreeing to pay for them at such Prices as shall be settled by the Convention of Comittees from the several States, who are to meet at New Haven, the 15th of Jan^{y} next, agreeable to a Resolution of Congress of the 22d Nov^{r} last.

I have the Honour to be
With great Respect,
Your very obed't Serv^{t},
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE,
for the Committee.

The Committee request you will be pleased to inform them whether the Proclamation ordering the Inhabitants of York & Cumberland Counties to thresh out their Grain has been issued.

On the Service of the United States.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esq^{r}, President of the Supreme E. Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Major Genl. Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp Eastward of Bartholomews, 30th Decr, 1777.

Sir,

You will readily recollect that the tenor of my last letter to Council respected the keeping up of the Militia of this State thro' the Winter in the same numbers as had generally been done thro' the Cource of the Campaign, and that this was the desire of Genl. Washington, at whose instance I then wrote. By farther reflexion on this very important matter, and taking into consideration that both branches of Government may now be concerting measures or making preparation to continue the usual succession of the militia, I have thought it my duty to throw out the following hints. Having now been some time on this weak and Exposed station, my first thoughts were, that an effort towards the security of this part of the state, preventing an intercourse with the Enemy or Market of Philadª &c., wou'd require the exertion of two thousand men habitually thro' the winter, but wish to be rightly understood, that I never imagined that two or three thousand or any other number of Militia the State cou'd be supposed to send wou'd be sufficient to do that business effectually if the Enemy shou'd think proper to oppose them in force. I am however, now rather of opinion that *one thousand* on this side the Scuylkill may answer all the purposes that are to be expected, and render in effect all that service to this part of the Country & to the publick that even two thousand cou'd possibly do. To this thousand Foot shou'd be added about twenty or thirty light Horse, which latter, peradventure, Genl. Washington may contribute.

If the number mention'd should be agreed to, the Council will readily perceive the great ease to our Militia at this severe season, as well as the great saving to the publick that must ensue. Whether the General expects any of our Militia to be station'd on that side of Scuylkill where his Excellʸ has now taken post I cannot tell, but shall write to him by this Conveyance, in order that he may have the earliest opportunity of Correcting this opinion if he think it wrong, or communicating what else he pleases. At present there are on this station near two thousand men, but in the space of two days Eight Battallions will be free, nor can they be kept an hour beyond the time. The residue will also be free in some short time, perhaps ten days, so yᵗ there is danger of a chasm. I am now about settleing some of the last things that appear necessary here, and shall, God willing, in two or three days begin my journey to the westward, being already half frozen in this frigid zoan. I expect Genl. Potter will come over & stay a few days longer, at any rate shall leave the Adjutant General to see orders executed until some farther appointment take place.

The bearer, a Light Horseman of Bucks County, has by an accident lost his Horse in our service, how he is to be paid I have not been able to assure him, but think him intitled & beg leave to recommend him for that purpose. However ill judged the following representation may be, at a time when I have been just recommending another person, I must only say, that on being summoned to an evening Council at Whitemarsh, I had a nice young Horse, with my saddle & Bridle, stole from the General's door, had him put in the general orders by way of advertisement, with every other means of search, but to no effect. 31st. General Potter is now here & will remain in the command some ten or twelve days. I have heard a good character of a Coll. An^{y} Morris, who at present lives near the White Horse, on the Lancaster Road.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t},

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. The distance & even uncertain residence of the pay-master General has been matter of frequent complaint, and now I borrow the money I want, as are some of the county paymasters, as Mr. Edwards tells me.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

By Mr. Talbort, a Horseman.

Council to Brig. General Armstrong, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, December 30, 1777.

Sir,

Your letters respecting the appointment of Brigadiers have been read and the subject of them attentively considered. The Council are sorry to say there are very few men in this State whose experience in the field will justify an appointment to so important a trust, and are of opinion that the Militia who may be in the field may in your absence be very safely entrusted to the command of General Potter, to whom we have written by this opportunity, and we hope he will be induced to continue with them during the winter, or least for some time.

We understand that Colonel Bull has the command of one brigade, on the East side of Schuylkill, and from his knowledge of the country, we think he may be safely continued in this trust, for the present untill we shall have an opportunity of conferring with you in Council.

There are many inconveniencies which arise from the appointment of a great number of General Officers, which your own good sense will point out to you, among which the difficulty of exchanging those which the fortune of War may throw into the Enemy's hands, isnot among the least.

The Council see the necessity of some relaxation from the severe duty of a Winters campaign, to a Gentleman of your advanced age, and therefore important as your services have been, cannot do less than to leave this matter wholly to your own feelings and Judgement, and have only to lament that your health and Vigour are not more equal to your inclination and other abilities to serve your country, in so trying and difficult a situation.

Directed.

To Major Gen. John Armstrong, Esq.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Dec^{r} 31, 1777.

Resolved,

That as it is expedient to promote a speedy reformation in the army, as well for the purpose of disipline as œconomy, & the number of officers being already out of all proportion to that of the privates. To avoid further embarrasments in this respect, it be recommended to the governments of the several States to suspend filling up any vacancies in their respective regiments, until they shall hear farther from Congress on the subject.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec.

Council to Gen Potter, 1777.

In Council,

Lancaster, Dec^{r} 31, 1777.

Sir,

The Council have for some time past had under their consideration the appointment of Brigadier Generals, but there are so few men in the State whose military experience will justify an appointment to an office of such importance, that they have not been able to determine on one whom they could wish to succeed you in that command for the winter, Especially when they consider that it is but too probable General Armstrong on acco^{t} of his advanced age will be obliged to quit the field during the Severity of the season. Council are aware of the peculiar hardship upon you to be kept so long from your family and private affairs, yet they cannot forbear requesting you to continue at least for some time longer, if not for the winter. Major General Armstrong, it is expected, will call on Council on his way home, and if any plan can be formed with his assistance to relieve you, without too greatly endangering our affairs, they will be happy in adopting it. The burthen will, and ought to fall upon men qualified for stations of importance in time of difficulty like the present, and we have no doubt of your cheerfully doing what in our distressed situation may best serve your country.

There are many inconveniencies to be feared from the appointment of a great number of General officers, which your good sense will point out to you, among the rest, the difficulty of releasing such as may, by the fortune of war, be thrown into the hands of the enemy deserve attention.

Directed,

To General Potter.

President Wharton to Wm. Crispin, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, January 1st, 1778.

Sir,

By the bearer Mr. William Bradford, I have sent you four thousand pounds for the purpose of providing provisions for the fleet belonging to this State, I should have sent a greater sum but the

Treasury is almost exhausted, I however hope shortly to have it in my power to send you a further sum.

I am
with respect
Sir, your very
humble Servant,
THOMAS WHARTON, Jun^r.

Directed.

To Wm. Crispin, Commissary to the fleet.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 1^st Jan^y, 1778.

Sir,

The last address which I had the honor of making to the State of Pennsylvania was directed to the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker of Assembly, having been advised to do so by the Delegates in Congress—this Evening I remarked a correspondence from your Honour to those Gentlemen introduced into the house. You will oblige me, Sir, by an information of the proper Channel for transmitting public dispatches to this State. And permit me at present the liberty of sending to your hands an Act of Congress of 31^st Decem. for promoting a speedy reformation in the Army in discipline & œconomy, which you will be pleased to lay before the proper power.*

I have the honour to be
with great Respect, Sir,
your honour's most
obedient Serv't,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

On public service, Henry Laurens.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Council of Pennsylvania, &c., &c., Lancaster.

* See answer January 6, on page 161.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, January 1st, 1778.

Sir,

By this Express from General Armstrong, he informs me he is of opinion that 1000 Militia regularly reliev'd, may be equal to effect the necessary duty on the North side of Schuylkill; he also mentions that he writes you to this purpose, & requires my sentiments thereon. As it has been my constant desire & study to conduct things in such manner as may be attended with the smallest expence & inconvenience to the people, I readily concur in this measure, & expect it may be found to answer, as 2000 could not prevent the Enemy from coming out in force, & 1000 may be a sufficient Check to small parties, & answer all the purposes of preventing an Intercourse between City and Country.

I think it will be absolutely necessary to furnish the light Horse the General speaks of, as I shall be obliged to send those belonging to the Army into quarters, in order to put them in a Condition to be fit to render any essential service the approaching Campaign.

From the present appearance of matters, I hope I shall not be oblig'd to call for any assistance of Militia to duty on this side Schuylkill this Winter, or if I do that the number will not exceed 2 or 300.*

I am with great respect,
your Excellency's
most obedient Serv't,
G. WASHINGTON.

Directed,
On public service.
His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Council and Assembly to Congress, 1778.

January 2, 1778.

Sir,

The petition of which the enclosed is a copy was yesterday laid before the House of Assembly. Others of a like import, we learn, are circulating in different parts of the State; and we have reason to believe they contain the sense of a large number of our constituents.

* See answer January 3,—on page 156.

The Assembly and Council have had a conference on the subject and we are directed to communicate the matter to Congress.

Should the scheme be thought practicable by your Honorable Body and by the General, we shall exert every nerve to carry it into execution; and we flatter ourselves that a very numerous and respectable body of the Freemen of Pennsylvania will on this occasion obey our call.

The winter season is certainly most favourable for the militia to leave their homes; perhaps in our present circumstances it may be also most favourable to our operations; this however is a point which we cheerfully submit to those whose province it is to determine in military matters, and who at the same time are capable of judging what assistance for this important purpose may be timely expected from the neighbouring States, as well as of the condition of the Continental army to undertake the proposed enterprise.

It will be of great importance, in case an attempt of this kind should be made, that the militia be well supplied with arms; and we must rely on Congress for their aid herein. We firmly depend that provisions can be had in sufficient quantities, without interfering with the Continental Commissaries. But a considerable sum of money will be wanted for this purpose, as well as to pay the militia who have appeared in the field, and who may turn out on the present occasion.

We dread the approaching campaign should the force of the enemy remain entire and be reinforced in the Spring, as we fear they will be: We are willing to do all in our power to crush them; but in what way our exertions may best promote this object we do not undertake to determine. The Council will be duly authorised, and remain ready to comply as far as possible with the directions of Congress, and request shortly to hear the result of their determinations.

We have the honor to be
with great respect,
your very humble servants.*

Directed,

To the H'nble Henry Laurens, Esq'r, President of Congress.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 404.

Resolution of Assembly, 1778.

In General Assembly of the Comon Wealth of Pennsylvania,

Friday, Jan'y 2d, 1778.

Whereas, by a resolve of the continental Congress of July the 31st, 1777, it was recommended to the executive Authorities of each of the United States, to divide their respective States into districts, and to appoint a proper Person in each district to receive Men to fill up the regiments raised in such State; that they take good security of the person so appointed, for the faithful discharge of his duty, and rendering just accounts of all public Monies that shall come to his hands; and that they allow for each able bodyed recruit so raised, who shall inlist for three years or during the War, the sum of Eight Dollars in full for his trouble & expence; that where no provision for securing deserters has already been made by the Laws of the State, they give to each person so appropriated full power to take up and secure all deserters that shall come within their respective districts; and, where force is necessary for this purpose, that they direct the officers of the Militia to give such assistance as shall be required; that they allow him the Sum of five Dollars for every deserter so taken up and secured, in full for his trouble and expence therein. And for the encouragement of men to enter the service, they shall have liberty at the time of their inlistment to make choice of the regiment, Troop or Company in which they will serve, provided such regiment, troop or Company is not full; if it is, they may choose any other regiment, troop or Company, which is not full, which shall be entered against their names, and returned to the officers appointed to receive such recruits, who shall, at the Time they are sent to join their corps, transmit the same to the General or commanding Officer.

That it be recommended to the executive authorities of each of the United States, to appoint convenient places of rendezvous in their respective States for receiving recruits and deserters, and that they transmit to General Washington, with as much expedition as possible, the names of such places of rendezvous, in order that proper Officers may be sent to receive such recruits & desorters.

That General Washington be directed to order all continental Officers now absent from their corps forthwith to join them, except only such as the General shall think necessary to receive recruits, and march them to the Army.

Therefore Resolved, that it be recommended to his Excellency, the President or Vice President in Council, to appoint a sufficient Number of recruiting Commissioners in each County, for the purposes aforesaid—and he is hereby impowered to give one hundred Dollars over and above the bounty allowed by Congress, to each able bodied recruit who shall enter into any one of the twelve Regiments belong-

ing to the quota of this State for three years or during the War,— And he is further impowered to draw orders on the State Treasurer for such Sums as may from Time to time be necessary for the purpose of paying the aforesaid bounties.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the Executive Council to appoint Places of rendezvous where it's most convenient to receive such recruits as they shall inlist, and the said recruiting Commissioners shall Monthly send such recruits to the place of rendezvous, and deliver them to an officer appointed to receive them, taking a receipt for them, and shall, as often as required, transmit to the executive Council accounts of the Number of recruits by him inlisted, & produce the receipt of the officer to whom they were delivered, which shall be his Vouchers for the expenditures of the Money delivered to him by the executive Council. And the said recruiting Commissioners are required to be careful in apprehending and securing all deserters from the Continental Army, for which service he is to receive five Dollars, in full, for his Trouble and expence in taking and securing such deserters, and he shall deliver the deserters to the the Officer appointed to receive the recruits.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, jr.,*

Clk. of Gen^{l} Ass^{y}.

President Wharton to General Washington, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, January 3d, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday I had the honor of receiving your letter of the first Instant† which I communicated to Council, and it is with pleasure I can assure your Excellency, that Council is perfectly convinced of the Strict attention, which you have always paid to the safety and ease of the inhabitants of this State. The proposal which General Armstrong has made, and to which your Excellency has acquiesced in keeping up not a greater number of the militia on the East Side of Schuylkill, than about one thousand with a few light Horse will answer as salutary a purpose, as double the number under our present circumstances by which a very great expense will be saved, and the good people of the State much less harrassed, objects worthy the the attention of your Excellency and of the Council.

As the time of the Militia now in the field is nearly expired, I purpose to order such classes as will furnish the number of men re-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 401.

† See it page 153.

quired, and will endeavour to provide the Light horse demanded by General Armstrong.

I have the honor to be
with the greater respect
your Excellencies
humble Servant,
THOMAS WHARTON, jun'r.

Directed,

His Excellency General Washington.

Council to Lieutenants, 1778

In Council, —— 1778, January 5th.

Sir,

The whole eight Classes of the Militia of the interior counties having been called into the field, & there being now a necessity that a considerable force be kept up on the eastern side of the river Schuylkill; You are hereby ordered to draw out, & send to Head-Quarters for orders, the [sixth & seventh] classes* of the Militia of your county as compleatly accoutered, and equipped, as possible, these classes ought to be sent forward immediately, as the time of service of those in the field is very nearly expired—the Council therefore recommend and earnestly desire that you will use the utmost diligence in this business, and have the men in the field as soon as possible.

If arms are not to be had, they will be furnished at the camp.

You have not sent to Council the returns of the Militia which have heretofore gone into the field, which is attended with great inconveniencies. It is expected that you send to Council a return of those now ordered out, without delay, together with returns of those which have heretofore been sent.

Council has heard with concern, that great delays in some counties have been made by the classes heretofore called, and much time spent before they have marched for camp, this ought to be remedied; for the law is possitive, that the pay shall commence only two days before they actually march, & rations are not allowed till they set out, & then after the rate of 20 m's per diem. Enquiry will be made concerning this abuse, and proper instructions given to the Pay Master.

Directed,

To Lieutenants of the several Counties.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 395.

Council to Congress, 1778.

Jan'y 5, 1778.

Sir,

Council have been applied to in behalf of the persons arrested last September, in & near Philadelphia, in pursuance of the Resolves of the Hon^e^ Congress of the American States, who are now detained in Virginia. Their Memorial* to Congress & Council has been read, & their Case considered.

Council have not thought it was pertinent or proper for them to intermingle in this business, whether the removal of these people, as things have turned out, has been upon the whole, of public utility; or whether the further detention of them is likely to be so, is questioned by many. It is certain, that if they were at liberty, they would be able to take a decided part, & might be treated accordingly. But as they were taken up for the benefit of the United States, & not of Pennsilvania merely they must be considered as the Prisoners of Congress, in behalf of the Union. Congress in this view lately ordered them to be conducted to Staunton. Council, therefore refers their case wholly to Congress, & have accordingly informed Alexan^r^ White, Esquire, of Winchester, bearer of their memorial.

It ought to be remembered that an Expence of perhaps £ 500, has been made by this State, in conducting the prisoners to Winchester.

Directed,

To Henry Laurens, Esq'r., President of Congress.

* See it on page 111, also Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 395.

Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers, 1778.

State of the Pennsylv[a] Non Commissioned Officers & Soldiers, agreeable to Returns made Jan[y] 5[th], 1778.

Regiments.	Non Com'd		Rank and File.					
				Sick.				
	Sergeants.	Drummers & Fifers.	Present fit for Duty.	Present.	Absent.	On Comm'd.	On Furlou'h.	Total.
1[st] Pennsylv[a].	20	8	159	1[illegible]	52	109	7	343
2 ditto.	11	10	77	[illegible]	15	11	4	110
7 ditto.	12	7	122	1[illegible]	46	8	4	190
10 ditto.	14	3	123	7	54	16	5	205
4 ditto.	19	12	96	18	25	13	2	154
5 ditto.	19	13	133	38	63	43	4	281
8 ditto.	14	7	123	46	62	116	2	349
11 ditto.	9	6	60	8	54	30	5	157
3 ditto.	11	11	77	33	42	20	1	173
6 ditto.	11	6	97	6	46	16	0	165
9 ditto.	16	3	108	12	50	16	5	189
12 ditto.	8	7	104	15	47	37	5	208
13[th] Col[o] Stewart's.	10	12	117	46	34	11	11	219
Total.	174	105	1394	258	590	446	55	2743

N. B. Many of those return'd fit for duty are barefooted and half Naked.

TIM. PICKERING, A. G.

Thomas Savadge to President Wharton, 1778.

Pensylvania Salt Works, Jan'y 5, 1778.

S[r],

I have the honour to inform you that I have two pans compleated, one of which I have boiled in once, and drawn about twenty bushels of salt from it, with which I have been obliged to purchase provisions. Had I a Bricklayer & Smith I should have a third pan up this week, which would enable me to make twenty Bushels ℔ day, which, at the present price of salt, would amount to near three hundred thousand pounds ℔ annum; but I am now without a man, except three Carpenters and one Carter, of Consequence can do nothing with the pans now I have them up.

Cap^{t} Sutter and men are this day marched for head quarters to get their discharge. It was not in Cap^{t} Sutter's and my power to prevail with them to stay one day longer. They have left the fieldpiece & some spare arms & ammunition. I have been in expectation of Mr. Davidson's bringing the people he went up for ere now; beg y^{e} may be forwarded as quick as possible, as nothing can be done untill the come.

Have had some information that Council is inclined to dispose of the works. Should that be the Case, agreeable to my articles they are to give me the refusal of them, at a valueation by persons mutually chosen, with allowance for wear or other damage. Should they incline to sell I would pay for them in Salt if most agreeable.

If Mr. Davidson brings any money with him should be glad if it where Continental, for it is with the greatest difficulty I can buy anything with State money of any kind.

I remain with due respect,

Your Honours

Most Humble Servant,

THOS. SAVADGE.

P. S. If Mr. Davidson comes down again it will be necessary for him to bring a Bed and Bedding for himself. Also, the men sent down must have sufficient of Blankets with them.

I am this day informed there his ordered three hundred of the Galley men down to protect these works. I have not Barracks for more than fifty or sixty officers and all, neither will it be possible to find Barracks in the Neighbourhood at this season.

Directed,

To The Hon^{ble} Tho^{s} Wharton, jun^{r}, Esq^{r}, President of the Hon^{ble} Council of State of Pensylvania.

p^{r} fav^{r} Cap^{t} Sutter.

J. B. Smith to Col. Matlack, Esq., 1778.

York Town, Jan^{y} 5th, 1778.

D^{r} Sir,

The letter from his excellency the President, & the Speaker of the Assembly, was this morning read in Congress. As far as could be discovered, the expediency, & indeed necessity of something vig'rous & immediate were in the sentiments of the whole house. They referred the letter to a Committee, viz. myself, Dr. Witherspoon & Mr. Fulsom. The articles of arms & provisions will probably be a weight. Can meat be procured? We are informed this day that eno' for 6 weeks for the army cannot be had of flour, &c.

I can have no doubt, Indeed I this day assured congress that all the difficulties arose from the mismanagement of the Commissaries only. It is probable a copy of the letter will be sent forward immediately to the General. Possibly the army may not now be in a situation to support the measure, as upon a late formal discussion on the subject, when a Committee from congress was at camp on the purpose, it was deemed impracticable, & many officers are away, & perhaps as great a proportion of the men. I think you may rely on Congress having it much at heart. I will be glad to know particularly from time to time what [response the] inclinations of the people make. I shall feel myself [happy in] having an opportunity of gaining to this state a reputation on this head, & shall not fail of availing myself of informations you may give.*

The Papers respecting waggons &c., are now with a Committee. Congress appear averse to raising the pay.

We have a letter from General Smallwood informing of his having taken a Brig of 6 Guns bound from N. York to Philada., one Capt. & 70 Privates, on Board, a master & 12 mariners, & 40 women, officers' wives, &c. The Sulkiness of the Capt & the ignorance of the master, who says the loading was concealed from him, prevented the Gen^{l}. from giving an account of what was on board. 1500 stand of arms, some ammunition, cloathing for 4000 men, or for 4 regiments, which uncertain, some cash, rum, wine, &c., he heard of. My best Compliments to the President & Gentlemen of the Council, particularly to Mr. Bryan. With Compliments of the season,

I am,

D^{r}. Sir, with much respect,

y^{r}. f^{d}. & ob^{t}. s^{t}.

J. B. SMITH.

Mr. Sam^{l}. Lyon will take your bags to-morrow morning. When I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, I will tell you how much y^{r}. obliged. J. B. S.

Comp^{ts} to our good fr^{d} Mr. Marshal.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Sec'y to Hon^{ble} Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

T. Matlack to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

Lancaster, Jany 6, 1778.

Sir,

The recommendation of Congress, enclosed in your favour of the 1st instant,† has been read in Council, and will be duly attended to. It will undoubtedly be proper that all publick dispatches should be

* Words are here lost by the seal.

† See page 152.

directed to the President of the Supreme executive Council of this State. I shall be happy at all times to receive your orders, and have the honour to be

Your honor's most obedient

humble Servant.

ELIAS BOUDINOT TO. PRES WHARTON, 1778.

Camp, Jan'y 7th, 1778.

Dr. Sir,

I yesterday discharged Charles Dingey from the Provost, on his giving me three Sureties in £1000, for his appearance at Lancaster within Ten Days. I promised to return the Bond, on your Certificate of his being properly conducted to you, but as I am bound for Jersey think it best to enclose it to you, which you can give up when you please. The Charge ag[t] him here is, his attempting to go into Philadelphia, his acknowledging himself a Subject of King George the third, and his refusing to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the State, or to give his Parole that he would nôt do us any Injury.

I have no News, but that our old Friend Richie is at last discharged, which I have informed Mr. Searle of.

Am, with Compliments to Mrs. Wharton,

Dr. Sir,

Your very Hble Serv't,

ELIAS BOUDINOT.*

Directed,

On the Public Service, To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jur, Esqr., at Lancaster.

REPORT TO AND RESOLUTIONS OF, CONGRESS RESPECTING GEN. BURGOYNE, 1778,

In Congress, Jan'y 8, 1778.

The Committee, to whom the letters that passed betwixt General Heath & Gen Burgoyne, & the letter from Gen. Burgoyne to Gen. Gates, were committed, brought in a report, which was taken into consideration & agreed to, as follows:

"That they have considered, with mature attention, the convention entered into at Saratoga, betwixt Major General Gates & Lieut. General Burgoyne, in October last, & find that numbers of the car-

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 402.

touch boxes, & several other articles of military accoutrements, annexed to the persons of the non commissioned officers & soldiers in General Burgoyne's army, have not been delivered up, and that agreeably to the spirit of the convention, and the technical interpretation of the word "arms," they ought to have been delivered up. This opinion is warranted, not only by the judgment of the most approved writers, but by the interpretation & practice of British Officers in similar cases in the course of the present war, particularly in the capitulation of St Johns, on the 2 Nov^{r}, 1775.

Your Committee farther report, that there are so many other circumstances attending the delivery of the arms and military stores, which excite strong suspicions that the convention has not been strictly complied with on the part of General Burgoyne, agreeable to its true spirit, and the intention of the contracting parties, and so many instances of former fraud in the conduct of our enemies, as to justify Congress, however cautious to avoid even the suspicion of want of good faith, in taking every measure for securing the performance of the convention, which did not impose any new condition, nor tend to delay its execution. Of this nature, your Committee consider the resolution of Congress, of the 8 of November last, directing General Heath, "to cause to be taken down the name & rank of every com-"missioned officer, and the name, former place of abode, occupation, "size, age & description, of every non commissioned officer & private "soldier and all other persons comprehended in the convention of "Saratoga." This cannot be considered as imposing any new condition, but as a measure naturally resulting from the articles of convention, which the conquering party has a right to avail itself of, & which is strictly justifiable, had no just suspicion of the want of good faith in the party surrendering presented itself. Your Committee are of opinion, that the reasons which General Burgoyne adduces for refusing a compliance, are inapplicable to the case; & they beg leave to observe that he is totally mistaken in his appeal to the conduct of Sir Guy Carlton and himself, with respect to the prisoners released from Canada, in August, 1776. For, notwithstanding his express declaration to the contrary, in his letter of the 23d November last, to General Heath, it appears from the original list of prisoners released from Canada, which is herewith presented, that the provinces, counties and towns to which the prisoners released belonged, were annexed to their respective names, which, for the greater security of the conquering party, were in the handwriting of the respective prisoners. Your Committee, therefore, cannot but consider General Burgoyne's refusal to give descriptive lists of the non commissioned officers and soldiers belonging to his army, when connected with his former conduct, & ill grounded assertion on this occasion, in an alarming point of view, more especially when they consider that nine days previous to this refusal, he had, without just cause given, declared in a letter to General Gates, that the public faith plighted

in the convention of Saratoga, was broken on the part of these States.

This charge of a breach of public faith is of a most serious nature, pregnant with alarming consequences, & deserves greater attention, as it is not dropped in a hasty expression, dictated by sudden passion, but is delivered as a deliberate act of judgment, committed to writing, & sent to the General with whom he made the convention; and if credit is to be given to General Burgoyne's account of himself in his letter to General Heath, of the 23 Nov^{r}, he cannot be considered "of "so light a character as to have acted in a serious matter of State, "upon a sudden impression."

The reasons on which he grounds this charge is, that the officers included in the convention have not, since their arrival in Massachusetts Bay, been accomodated with quarters agreeable to their respective ranks; on which, your Committee beg leave to observe, that though from the sudden and unexpected arrival of so large a body of troops, the concourse of strangers in & near Boston, the devastation & destruction occasioned by the British army not long since blocked up in that town, & by the American army, which beseiged them; & considering that the officers were not to be separated from their men, & that the troops could not be quartered with equal convenience in any other place within the limits pointed out and described in the convention as there are not a sufficient number of barracks in any other part of that State; though from these and many other unavoidable circumstances the accommodation of General Burgoyne & his officers might not be such as the public could wish or he expect, yet his charge of a breach of y^{e} public faith on this account is not warranted either by the letter of the preliminary articles agreed on between himself & Gen. Gates, on the 14 of October, or by the spirit of the convention signed on the 16 of the same month; since by an examination of these articles it will appear, that the stipulation with respect to the quartering of officers was not to be construed in that rigorous sense, in which General Burgoyne affects to consider it, but on the contrary that it was "agreed to as far as circumstances would admit."

Your Committee forbear to lay any stress on the attempt of the enemy to alter the place of embarkation from the port of Boston to that of Rhode Island, or the Sound, so contiguous to the port of New York, which as well as that of Rhode Island, is at present in their possession; on the seemingly inadequate number of vessels, (being only 26 transports sent to Rhode Island, as appears in a letter from Gen. Pigot to Gen. Burgoyne, dated 5 Dec^{r},) for an army consisting of 5642, in a winter voyage to Europe; or on the improbability of the enemy's being able on so short a notice to victual such a fleet & army for a voyage of such length; since the declaration of Lieutenant General Burgoyne, that the public faith is broke, is of itself sufficient to justify Congress, in taking every measure for securing the performance of the convention, which the laws of Nations in consequence of this conduct will justify.

These facts & opinions, your Committee in a matter of such high moment to the honor & safety of these States, esteem it their duty to report specially; and considering that General Burgoyne has not fully complied with the convention of Saratoga, particularly in not delivering up the cartouch boxes & accoutrements, that he has expressly and without just foundation charged these States with a breach of public faith; that in consequence of this declaration, whilst in our power he may deem himself & the army under him, absolved from their compact, and may therefore have refused compliance with a measure naturally resulting from the convention, & which only tended to render his officers & men insecure, in case the convention on their part was not complied with; considering farther, that from the distance between America & Great Britain, there is no opportunity of accommodating this dispute in any reasonable period of time, with the Sovereign of the States, in behalf of which, this convention was made, & that the operations of Gen. Burgoyne's army in America, would not only defeat the main object of the convention, but prove highly prejudicial to the interest of these States; your Committee therefore submit the whole to the consideration of Congress, in order that such measures may be adopted as are consistent with the honor & safety of the United States."

Whereupon Congress came to the following resolutions.

Resolved,

That as many of the cartouch boxes, & several other articles of military accoutrement annexed to the persons of the non commissioned officers & soldiers included in the convention of Saratoga have not been delivered up, the convention on the part of the British army has not been strictly complied with.

Resolved,

That the refusal of lieut. general Burgoyne to give descriptive lists of the non-commissioned officers & privates belonging to his army subsequent to his declaration that the public faith was broke, is considered by Congress in an alarming point of view, since a compliance with the resolution of Congress could only have been prejudicial to that army in case of an infraction of the convention on their part.

Resolved,

That the charge made by Lieutenant General Burgoyne in his letter to Major General Gates of the 14 Nov^{r}, of a breach of public faith on the part of these States is not warranted by the just construction of any article of the convention of Saratoga, that it is a strong indication of his intention, & affords just ground of fear, that he will avail himself of such pretended breach of the convention, in order to disengage himself, & the army under him of the obligation they are under to these United States, & that the security which these States have had in his personal honor, is hereby destroyed.

Resolved therefore,

That the embarkation of Lieutenant General Burgoyne & the troops under his command be suspended till a distinct & explicit ralification of the convention of Saratoga, shall be properly notified by the court of Great Britain to Congress.

By order of Congress,

HENRY LAURENS, President.*

Attest Charles Thomson, Sec.

Mathw. Irwin, D. Q. M. G., to Prest. Wharton, 1778.

Reading, 8th Janʸ, 1778.

Sir,

As it's probable our Militia may stand in need of Tents next Campaign, I take the liberty of acquainting you that I have the disposal of the sails of four Continental vessels that were destroyed at the Head of Elk last summer. If you chuse, I will have the sails valued, & take them on accoᵗ of this State, & have them made into Tents, for which they will be very suitable. Other Camp Equipage will also be wanted, and as it's uncertain whether the new Continental qʳ mʳ Genˡ may chuse to supply the Militia; request your Excellency will let me know if I am to make the necessary Provition &c. I am now in advance for the qʳ mʳ Departmᵗ £642,15, which Genˡ Mifflin dont chuse to pay, being about closing his accotˢ, request you will let me know when I can receive this and an additional sum for the use of my departmᵗ.

I am,

With the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obed't,

Very humᵇˡᵉ servᵗ,

MATHW. IRWIN,

Qʳ mʳ Genˡ for the State of Pennaᵃ.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thom. Wharton, Junʳ, Esqʳ, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Penna., at Lancaster.

* See the President's letter enclosing this, Jan. 14, p. 176.

General Potter to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

It is long since I informed the Council that I would be under the necessity of going home to settle some of my affairs, and the last accounts I have Received of Mrs. Potter's Indispossition, is with me a more urgent Reason than any other for my Return.

I anxiously request, if Council has not appointed some one to Relieve me, that they would immediately do it, or grant me leave of absence for some time.

I am,

With Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient,

Humble Servant,

JAS. POTTER.*

Philad[a] County, Janu'y 8th, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., In Lancaster.

Favour of Col. Bull.

President Wharton to Commodore Hazelwood, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, January 8, 1778.

The enclosed is triplicate of my last letter to you. Yesterday Captain Blewer of the state Navy-board, called upon Council, the above letter will serve as an answer to part of his business.

It is the opinion of Council that if the Cannon filling (the touch holes with lead) stores, &c., be removed ten or fifteen miles from the water, but distributed in many places so that the quantity in either may not be an object worth the attention of the enemy, it may answer better, taking every circumstance in view, than sending them forty or fifty miles, and deposited in one place; or part of the cannon might be sunk in the river, for, as the season is far advanced, and there is difficulty in procuring sufficient teams, especially with expedition, it will therefore be advisable to return them almost as soon as they are safely secured.

* See answer Jan. 9, on page 169. See Col. Rec., Vol., XI, p. 398.

Mr. William C. Bradford left this the other day and took with him four thousand pounds for the Commissary and three thousand pounds to pay the boats crews, &c[a]. ; when the Treasury is replenished a further sum shall be sent. Capt[n] Blewer mentioned to Council that many of the men belonging to the boats were married and their wives in a good deal of distress for the want of provisions, and probably if they went off their husbands would follow. If the state Navy Board and yourself should be of opinion that furnishing some of those Women with rations will be of utility to the state, Council will not object.

I am also requested by Council to inform you that they have had an eye towards the extraordinary expence which you must necessarily have been at, and will still continue whilst you have the command of the fleet, have allowed you to draw rations, from the time of your appointment w[ch] you will see by the enclosed resolve.

Council have no doubt of every exertion of yours and the state navy board to secure the stores &c[a], belonging to the fleet, as well as attentive to the seamen.

I am very respectfully,

Yours and their very humble servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., Presd[t].

The resolve, above mentioned Council is desirous of reconsidering, the result of which will be forwarded to you in a few days.

Directed,

To Commodore Hazelwood.

PRES'T WHARTON TO BRIG. GEN. LACEY, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, January 9, 1778.

Sir,

You are this day appointed to be a Brigadier General of this State, and the Secretary will, by Col. Hart, forward to you a Commission empowering you to act as such.

Brigadier General Potter has obtained leave to visit his family, and you are to take the command in his absence.

Two classes of Militia from the county of York, two from the county of Cumberland, two from the county of Northampton, and one from the county of Northumberland, are now ordered into the field; and the Lieutenants of the counties of Philadelphia and of Bucks are directed to supply you with twenty Light Horse, each without officers, as they must be necessarily divided into small parties, where officers will be useless.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 366 and 398.

† See page 151.

Council to the Lieutenants of Co's, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, January 9, 1778.

Sir,

Two classes of Militia from the county of York, two from the county of Cumberland, two from the county of Northampton, and one from the county of Northumberland, are ordered into the Field to cover the country between Schuylkil and Delaware. It is necessary that a number of Light-horse should be kept on the several roads for intelligence and other purposes; you are, therefore, to procure as soon as possible, and send to Camp twenty active young men for this service: a like number will be ordered from the county of Bucks. Their horses, arms and accoutrements, are to be valued, and pa'd for if lost in the service. The Gentlemen who turn out as Light Horsemen will be excused from serving when called in their classes. There will not be occasion for officers in this corps, as they must act in very small detached parties, and especially as it is reasonable to suppose they will consist of the young Gentlemen of the county.

Council has this day appointed John Lacey, jun^r., Esq^r., to be a Brigadier General, and he will take the command in the absence of Brigadier General Potter.*

Philadelphia & Bucks, 20 light Horse each.

To the Lieutenants of Philad^a and Bucks Counties.

Pres't Wharton to Gen. Potter, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, January 9, 1778.

Sir,

I received your sundry letters which I have laid before the Council. The 31st instant† I had the pleasure of writing to you, tho it had not got to hand when you wrote your last.

I have ordered out two classes of the Militia of the county of Cumberland, two classes out of the county of York, one class out of the county of Northumberland, and two classes out of the county of Northampton. I have also written to the Lieutenants of the counties of Philadelphia and Bucks, desiring them to send each twenty Light-horse, and expressed my sentiments that officers to command them will be unnecessary, as they must be divided into small parties to be stationed on different roads, &c.

General Armstrong waited on the Council and laid before them a State of affairs, and gave his sentiments respecting the appointment of an officer to command of the Militia in your absence, and expect

* See page 167–168. † Ult? See p. 151.

he has written to you thereupon. I lament that you are under a necessity of leaving the Camp for some time, as I am very sensible of your important services, yet I cannot object to your visiting your family after such a length of Service in the Field. Council had some thoughts of appointing Lieutenant Col[l] Lacy to command the Militia, without giving him the rank of a Brigadier General, but on full consideration they saw that it would give occasion of offence to the Colonels which are now ordered into the Field; and therefore, in consideration of his merit, have appointed him to be a Brigadier General. He will of course take the command in your absence—you will please therefore, before you leave Camp, give him such instructions as you think may be useful.

I am, with much respect,

S[r], your very Hum. Ser[t].

To Brigadier Gen[l] Potter.

John Lesher to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

To the Hon[ble] the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen,

I conceive it to be my Duty to acquaint you that I conceive I am no more master of any individual thing I possess; for, besides the damages I have heretofore Sustained by a number of Troops & Continental Waggons, in taking from me 8 Ton of Hay, destroy'd Apples sufficient for 10 hhd[s] Cyder, Eating up my Pasture, Burning my Fences, &c., and 2 Beeves I was oblig'd to buy at 1s. ℔ lb., to answer their immediate want of Provisions, and at Several other times Since I have Supply'd Detachments from the Army with Provisions. There has lately been taken from me 14 Head of Cattle & 4 Swine, the Cattle at a very low Estimate, to my infinite Damage, as they were all the Beef I had for my workmen for carrying on my Ironworks; I had rather deliver'd the Beef and reserv'd the Hides, Tallow, &c., but no Arguments will prevail, all must be deliver'd to a Number of Armed men at the point of the Bayonet. As my Family, which I am necessiated to maintain, consists of near 30 Persons, not reckoning Colliers, Wood Cutters and other day Labourers, my Provisions & Forage being taken from me, my Forge must stand Idle, my Furnace, which I am about carrying on must of consequence be dropt, which will be a loss to the Public as well as myself, as there is so great a Call for Iron at Present for publick Use, & some Forges & Furnaces must of necessity fail for want of Wood and Ore.

Gentlemen: The Case in this neighbourhood is truly alarming, when the strongest Exertions of Œconomy & Frugality ought to be Practised by all Ranks of Men, thereby the better to enable us to repel the Designs of a daring Enemy, who are now in our Land. It strikes me with Horror to see a number of our own Officers & Soldiers, wantonly waste & destroy the good Peoples Properties; by such conduct they Destroy the Cause they seek to maintain. Instead of Judicious men appointed in every Township, or as the Case may require, to Proportion the Demands equal according to the Circumstances of every Farmer & the general benefit of the whole, these men, under the Shadow of the Bayonet & the appellation Tory, act as they Please, our Wheat, Rye, Oats & Hay taken away at discretion and Shamefully wasted, and our Cattle destroy'd. I know some Farmers who have not a Bushel of Oats left for Seed, nor Beef sufficient for their own Consumption, while some others lose nothing, as a man who has 100 head of Cattle lost not one; such Proceedings I think to be very Partial. Many Farmers are so much discourag'd by such Conduct, that I have heard several say they would neither Plow nor Sow if this takes place; the consequence may be easily forseen, unless some Speedy & Effectual method be taken to put a stop to such irregular Proceedings, and encouragement & Protection extended to the good People of this Commonwealth. I Shudder at the Consequence.

I humbly submit the whole to your Serious Consideration, and remain

Gentlemen,

Your Obed^{t} Hum^{ble} Serv^{t}.

JOHN LESHER.

Oley, 9th January, 1778.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, President of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

R. M'Calester to President Wharton, 1778.

Hanover Town, Jan^{r} 9th, 1778.

S^{r},

I have had the Hon. to Receive y^{r} Letter of the 5th Instant, & Dispatched Copeys thereof Imedetly to all the Subs in the County, and hope to have what will March on there way in a few days.

Respecting the Money I Rec^{d} from y^{r} Exelency to hier Substitutes, &c., it wass Divided Eaqully amongst the Lieu^{t}. I have for Sometime been Calling on them for it, and as yet hath not Rec^{d} any but from two, but Expect in a Verrey Short time to Discharge

that sum to Council, & pay into the treesherer the Money Colected after, as fast as Possable it Can be Colected—the 4 Classes Coming alltogether hath Given us much Difficulty, & the People is Verrey Rustey. However, we are Doing Every thing in our Power not to Distress the poor too much, which we have Grate numbers of, but hope to be able to Give a midling Good ac^{t} in a short time.

A Deputy Comasory & Quartermaster, or to Purches & Deliver out forage, hath been apoiented in this town this fall, and there being no ofiser in this Place but myself, the Comeserey woent Deliver out without my orders—there being a Grate Recourse this way, and a Number of Soldiers pass & Repassing allmost Everey hower, that I am Called on ten to twenty times p^{r} Day and my one Busness suffring. I Cant Stand and See the Solderey wanting—I have to Examin thire Papers & write them orders, so that Between that and the Militia, my whole time is Consumed to the Pregidice of my family & am not able to suport it, and without a Remedey will in my one defence be oblidged turn the Comission I now have from y^{r} Exelency. I am and allways have been willing & desireous to do Everey thing in my Power for the Good of the Country, but supose no person is to Spend his time for nothing, the many applecations from the Militia and the other Distroys my whole time nearly, before I have been Called upon by the Soldery. I never tho^{t} of Chargeing for the Loss howers in the Milit busness, but now Nearly my whole time is taken up.

I have the Hon^{r} to be,

Y^{r} Exelencys

Most ob^{t} Hum. Servent,

R. M'CALESTER.

Directed,

To His Exel. Thomas Wharton, Esq^{re}, Presedent of the Exe^{e} Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

John Bondfield to President Wharton, 1778.

Bordeaux, 10th January, 1778.

Philadelphia,

The Hon^{ble} Tho^{s} Wharton, Esq^{r}.

Dear Sir,

Being up to the 10th January, you naturally would expect decisive Steps taken by Great Britain; by all accounts we receive, they appear very anxious for the Fate of their army under Gen^{l} Howe. G^{l} Haldiman, who was on leave of absence in Switzerland, is called home, and its reported is to take the Command of the Northern Army. Lord Amherst & G^{l} Murray is also named amonghst the

Gen^{ls} to be employ'd the ensueing Campaign. We flatter ourselves that Gen'l Howe's army will not be able to resist this Winter Campaign. Europe are unanimous that Britain is not able to Send a Second army. We wish to hear of your being once more restored to your happy dwellings. We are informed from Paris, that your Commissioners of Congress have concluded a treaty with this Kingdom, Spain & Portugal; if real, we may expect protection to your Ships, which will be the effectual means to throw into America the various Goods necessary for your subsistence, and thereby reduce the price. With my Sincere wishes for your health & wellfare, I Remain,

Dear Sir,

Your very hhb. Serv^{t}.

JOHN BONDFIELD.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}. Esq^{r}, President of Council for the State of Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania.

Timothy Pickering to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Jan'y 10, 1778.

Sir,

Seventy five bundles of printed Journals of Congress were a few days since lodged at my quarters, and I am directed by his Excellency General Washington, to send the Same forward to York-Town. I could light on no waggons bound immediately thither, and have therefore delivered them to the care of George Stober, Waggon Master, who was going with three covered waggons directly to Lancaster. Not knowing any gentleman there to whose care I could direct them, I have taken the freedom to order Mr. Stober to apply to you, and I beg you will be So kind as to direct him to some suitable person to whose charge they may be committed, till they can be forwarded to York-Town. The importance & value of these papers, I hope, will be a sufficient apology for my addressing them to you, as I am ignorant of every other public character in the place.

I have also delivered to Mr. Stober a pine box, marked under the key hole with my name. This, I beg, may be taken charge of with the papers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obed^{t} Serv^{t}.

TIM. PICKERING, Adj^{t} Gen'l.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}., President of the Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

T. Matlack to Board of War, 1778.

Lancaster, 13th January, 1778.

Sir,

Col. Curtis Grubb, of Lebanon, sub-lieutenant of L. County, has for some time past, taken care to provide Guards of Militia for the safety of the Warlike stores which are lodged there, & also for the due restraint of the Hessian prisoners, who were not removed. He represents to Council the difficulty of drawing out sufficient numbers, & the needless expence of pay & rations, when the duty might be with greater confidence, assigned to a party of the Continental Troops, now quartered here. At his request, & as Council join with him in sentiment, I am directed to lay this matter, thro' you, before the board of War.

The Colonel also suggests, that it is worthy consideration, whether the prisoners ought to be kept at a place where stores of such value and consequence are lodged.

I am,
Sir,
T. M.

William Crispin to President Wharton, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Colonel Nicola has applyed to me for his Rations as Town Major for the City of Phil^{a}. I settled with him Untill some time in Sept^{r}. I apprehend that after the City was Taken, he had no Right to Rations as Town Major—your Directions will Govern me. Likewise Colonel Melchior has apply'd to me for one years Rations as Barrack Master General, at 5 Rations ℔ Day. I recommend him to you, as I Never had an order to supply him with Rations. I should be glad if there was a fixed Price for such Rations, as in this exhausted Country there is hardly any such thing as Procuring Beef. The Officers of the fleet is settling their accounts with me up to the 1st of the year; some I have got to take Money, I therefore hope, by Mr. Bradford, I shall have a further supply of that Necessary article. I have paid some of the Officers 3*s*. 9*d*. a Rations of all species, which, as things is Now, I Believe is Low, & what the Continental officers are allowed.

I am with Respect,
yours to serve,
WM. CRISPIN.

Trenton, Jan^{r} 14th, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Joseph Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1778.

Bellevue, 14th Janr, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 9th Inst came to hand yesterday, and the Order therein contain'd, respect'g the Raising a Troop of L^t Horse in this County, your Excellency may be assur'd shall be execut'd with all possible punctuality and dispatch.

But I am sorry to find no more Encouragement given to that servis, as not to allow something for the Use of the Horses, which I think is something Very Considerable, as they must, from the Nature of the servis, be much reduc'd in Value in the Corse of two months.

Shou'd it be consistent with your Excellency's Judgment, shou'd be glad some compensation mite be made in the above case.

I wou'd further beg leave to mention to your Excellency, that Our Late Troop of L^t Horse hath not yet been p^d, nor can the sign'g a pay roll be procur'd from the Gen'l, tho' I beleve it is allow'd they have done their duty.

I am now as Busey as possible Collect'g Sub^s money, &c., and hope ere long, to render a handsome sum.

My best wishes attends your Excellency & the Honb^e Council, and have the hon'r to be,

your Excel^y most obt^t

& hum^e serv^t,

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of State Pennsylvania.

Sup. M. Tagart.

Samuel Hunter to President Wharton, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 14th January, 1778.

Sir,

Yours of the 5th Inst I received yesterday, ordering out the fifth class of the Militia of this County, which I shall pay due regard to all the orders I receive from Council, but beg leave to acquaint you what confusion these Frontiers is in at present, in regard of the Indians Commiting Hostilitys; there has been two men kill'd & scalped by them leatly, near the Great Island. One the 23d of last month, near the mouth of Pine Creek, which occasioned the

Inhabitants to Assemble in two or three different places in that Quarter, for their own preservation. Lieu't Col'l Antis came down to me to Consult what was best to be done, as there was several Indians seen, upon which I ordered out three Classes of Col'l Long's Battalion, that lives on the West Branch, to Embody themselves Imediately under his own Command, as he is an Excellent Good, Woods man, and use all means to come up with them savages, but for all the scouts he kept out, there was another of the Inhabitants kill'd and scalped the first of this month, about two miles above the Great Island, and Eleven Indians seen, but our People pursued them (as there had fell a snow which enabled our men to track), and killed two of the Indians, the others fled, and was pursued a great ways, but our men could not come up with them, and they turned back to their familys, which is suffering at this inclement season of the year, as they are afraid to live in their own Houses.

The Generality of the Inhabitants does not think it prudent to let any out of the County at this present call for the Militia, when the Frontiers is like to suffer by a cruel savage enemy; suppose I have Given them Orders to be in Readiness to march the 20th Inst to Head Quarters, yet, at the same time, would be desirious to have an answer from Council.

I am Sr, your Excelencys most

obedt Humbe Servt,

SAMUEL HUNTER.

Directed,

To His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Junr., President of the Executive Council, Lancaster. ☞ Ensign, Valintin Gaigher.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 14th January, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour of writing to your Excellency the 1st Inst., since which I have received none of your favors.

I now inclose, for the State of Pennsylvania, a very solemn & important Act of Congress of the 8th Inst., for suspending the embarkation of Lieut General Burgoyne & his Troops until the Convention of Saratoga shall be distinctly and explicitly Ratified by the Court of Great Britain & properly Notified to Congress*—a measure which Cóngress after long & dispassionate consideration judged to be equally justifiable & nccessary, & are therefore confident their Resolutions will be confirmed by the approbation of all their constituents in these United States, who are most nearly concerned, &

* See Report and resolves on that subject, page 162.

as well persuaded that the justice & good policy of the Act will be acknowledged by every disinterested Court in Europe.

I have the honour to be,
with great Regard, Sir,
your Excellency's
most humble servant,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President, Pennsylvania.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, Jan^{y} 15th, 1778.

Resolved,

That one or more proper persons be Immediately employed by the board of war on the best terms in their power, to purchase thirty thousand barrels of flour or wheat equivalent, and have it ground into flour, and to deposit 12,000 barrels, part thereof, at or near Lancaster; 8000 barrels at or near Reading, 6000 barrels at or near Bethlehem, 2000 barrels at Downing's town, and 2000 barrels at Potsgrove.

That the commissioner or commissioners employed to execute this Business have full power and authority to employ all mills, millers and coopers necessary, on the best terms they can, to compleat the said quantity of flour with all possible expedition.

That the commissioner or commissioners be impowered to hire or impress Waggons sufficient to make the necessary transportation of the flour to the places where it is to be deposited, and pay the hire of the said Waggons at the same rate paid by the Quarter master general.

That the board of War be impowerd to limit the prices to be given for the said wheat and flour, and to give such orders and directions to the commissioners as they shall think proper or necessary from time to time, Provided that no limitation, to be made by the Board of War with respect to price, shall contravene any acts of the legislature of Pennsylvania, or any of the regulations that may be made hereafter by the Convention of Committees, which is to meet at New haven in Conne on this fifteenth day of January.

That these Magazines, being established without the interference of the Commissary General or his Officers, shall, when Necessary, be ordered under the Direction of the issuing commissary general by the board of War.

That general Washington be directed to support the commissioners in the execution of their Duty with Military force if necessary.

That the Board of War be Impowered to direct the said commissioners to purchase any fat cattle, salted meat with in their tours through the country, on the best terms in their power, and deliver the same to the Commissary General of issues or his Deputies, taking accountable receipts for what they so delivered.

That the Board of War enquire of his Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, president of the Council of the State of Pennsylvania, what measures have been taken by the legislature of that State for laying up magazines for the army; and if it should appear to the Board, after such enquiry, that measures for that purpose have been taken adequate to the present critical situation of the army with respect to supplies, they be authorized and directed to suspend the execution of the whole or such parts of the foregoing resolutions as they shall deem most conducive to the general weal.

Resolved,

That the Board of War be authorized to direct Coll. Flower to make a Contract with Mr. Whitehead Humphreys on the terms of the former agreement or such other as Coll. Flower shall deem equitable, for making a quantity of Steel for the supply of the Continental artificers and works with that necessary article; and as the Iron made at the Andover works only will with Certainty answer the purpose of making Steel, Coll. Flower be directed to apply to the Government of New Jersey to put a proper person in possession of these works (the same belonging to persons who adhere to the enemies of these States) upon such terms as the Government of the State of New Jersey shall think proper: and that Coll. Flower contract with the said person for such quantity of iron as he shall think the service requires.

Resolved,

That a Letter be written by the Board of War to the Governor & council of the State of New Jersey, setting forth the peculiarity of the demand for these works, being the only proper means of procuring iron for steel, an article without which the service must Irreparably suffer; and that the said Governor and council be desired to take such means as they shall think most proper for putting the said works in blast and obtaining a supply of iron without delay.

Extract from the minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Circular.—Council to Comm'rs to collect Clothing, 1778.

Lancaster, January 15th, 1778.

Sir,

Council had an opportunity of knowing something of the nature of the wants of Gentlemen of the army, by seeing the catalogues exhibited by some few officers. With concern they observe, that articles of meer superfluity, & in the present distress, quite beyond the finances of any prudent man, are expected to be furnished under extraordinary powers, which nothing but the naked condition of soldiers in this inclement season could warrant; powers w^ch^ if continued, would overbear Commerce & Manufacture, & prevent future supplies. Fine beaver Hats, Gold Laced Hats, Silken Stockings, fine Cambrick, and other expensive articles of Dress, can not be supposed to be goods within the meaning of Congress, in recommending, nor within the intention of the Legislature in providing for the distresses of a suffering army. Scarlet Cloth too is thought improper to be worn on duty, in the case of a war, wherein the enemy greatly use that colour.

I am therefore directed by Council, to guard you against any misconstruction of the powers given to you, by the late act of A., intituled an Act, &c., so as to provide for demands of this nature. Far from Countenancing any thing like these, it is their wish to promote frugality, as in other prudent States. It is certain that neither the pay of these Gentlemen, nor the funds of the Commonwealth will admit of more than what decency & warmth require. So far, but no farther you are to extend your provision.

As Council are asking the advice of the General, about the manner of distributing Clothes in their hands to the privates in our Battalions, they also have mentioned to him what the Commis^rs^ are impowered to do, and that the reasonable wants of the officers may be stated in order to a proper distribution. It is expected, in the meantime, that Col. Johnston, who is to deliver out the goods by our order or that of Assembly, will appear, or let another be named, that no needless delays be given.

Indorsed,

To the Commissioners app^d^ by the General Assembly to collect cloathing.

President Wharton to Gen. Washington, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, January 15th, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed recommendation of the hon'ble house of General Assembly of this State, founded on a recommendation of Congress, has been repeatedly under consideration. As we are persuaded that however it may be in other states, we cannot reasonably expect in this state where property is in general very equally divided, that farmers will exert themselves to enlist their neighbours' children in the service, or even the labourers which they feel themselves in great want of, and Council can devise no means by which we can hope so effectually and expeditiously to raise our quota of troops, as by the officers of the battalions; If this measure shall meet your Excellency's approbation, we request that you will please to select two out of each for this purpose and give them orders to repair to the several counties as soon as may be on this important service.

A sum of money will be deposited in the hands of the County Lieutenants, or other suitable persons, to pay the bounty of one hundred dollars ordered by the Assembly, over and beside the bounty given by Congress, to each able bodied recruit who shall enter any of the battalions belonging to the quota of this State, for three years, or during the war: The words of the recommendation are of the "twelve battalions," but we understand it to have been intended to all the battalions.

Council had some time since, set on foot a collection of coarse woolens, blankets, shoes &c., to be sent into the common fund in the hands of the Clothier General. Very lately Congress, departing from the former system, resolved that each state do endeavour to supply the present necessities of its troops. Agreeable to this, Council immediately proceeded to bring a large quantity of woollens, which was concealed, or neglected in Bucks County* to the supply of the distressed Soldiers; The Taylors have made considerable progress in making them up. They calculate that they will produce near one thousand coats and waistcoats for privates, and a few breeches, these goods seem not so fit for officers, except some surtouts would be thought acceptable. Your Excellency's direction concerning the distribution will be usefull, as the Council are fully satisfied that you wish the most pressing necessity to be first releived.

The Assembly, in the exigence of our army at this inclement season have gone into the most vigorous mode of relief, a mode that cannot be continued, nor renewed, consistent with trade or manufacture; They have invested two commissioners in each County, with power to seize and take all necessaries suitable to the purpose, in whatever hands they may be found; and they have appointed Colonel Francis

* See pages 92, 107, 146, 187.

Johnston to receive and distribute the cloathing as ordered by Council. By this means it may be expected that great additions may be made to the cloathing already made up, and making.

The officers whose wants, it is believed, are very pressing will be in some measure relieved; but it cannot be expected that powers of this extraordinary nature can be exerted to procure any other goods than warmth and decency require. Lieutenant Peterson, of the eighth Pennsylvania battalion, applied to Council for cloathing for himself and several officers. At the foot hereof we transcribe from his application a specimen of their wants.

The call upon the State was thought to be for covering for the naked part of the army; and as no idea that fine ruffled shirts, laced hats, or even fine ones of beaver, silken stockings, or fine scarlet cloth, came under this description, no provision for these has been made, nor can be expected. Your Excellency can best judge whether any precaution may be necessary to prevent such officers as intend shortly to resign from obtaining a supply of the cloathing expected to be delivered out.

Indorsed,

To his Excellency General Washington.*

Sent by Mr. Jas. Davidson.

T. Matlack to Commodore Hazelwood, 1778.

Lancaster, January 16, 1778.

Sir,

The situation of the Salt Works belonging to the State has been laid before Council, and they find a number of men is wanted there. Upon consideration they request that you will select from among the men under your command thirty of the most promising of them and send them down to the Works.

Mr. James Davidson will call on you and confer with you on the business above mentioned—several Tradesmen will be wanted, and if they can be had from among your people, to serve for the winter, it will perhaps be proper to employ them in this manner—Mr. Davidson is appointed one of the Directors of the works, and authorized to use his best discretion therein. Any assistance you can give him will be a publick benefit.

I am with great respect

Your very humble Servant

T. M.

Directed,

To Commodore Hazelwood.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 401.

Council to Thomas Savadge, 1778.

Lancaster, 16th January, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday Captn. Sutter delivered your Letter of the 5th Instant.* It is not the design of Council to sell the Salt works. Distressed as they have been, & still are, at the unaccountable delays that have happened, they might well have renounced before now, the undertaking, thro' despondence But well apprized that useful attempts must be persevered in, notwithstanding many & great obstacles intervene & resist, if the good of Society be designed & promoted, they resolve to push their works vigorously, if possible, into the full execution of their original plan: the supply of Salt to the good people of this State.

Sensible of the many & various hindrances you have met with, arising from the peculiar Circumstances of the times, & otherwise; & how much your attention must be engrossed by the erections & machinery, proper to success in the large plan you have gone upon, Council have employed and appointed the Bearer hereof, Mr James Davidson, to repair immediately to East-Jersey, & reside at the works, as their agent. He is empowered & instructed to do everything that may be effectual in attaining the so much to be desired End; the full operation of the scheme. For this purpose, he is supplied with money; it is to be hoped, however, for the last time; as a yield of Salt proportionable to three hundred thous^{d} Bushels p^{r} Annum, which you hold out to Expectation, will soon supply efficaciously, every need. Assisted by Mr Davidson, whom we strongly recommend to your Civilities, as a very active & at the same time, a very worthy Gentleman, Council expect you will be enabled to surmount every remaining difficulty, & that you & he will concertedly and spiritedly proceed in the business.

The report that Commod^{r} Hazlewood was send^{s} 300 of his Boatmen to you, was extraordinary enough, But can have no foundation. He is now directed to select 30 or more of the most suitable for Guards, & for further service, & lend them to the works till other Dispositions can be made. Among these, it is likely some of the Artizans wanted, will be found.

Your own interest so strongly urges to every Exertion, that it would be vain for me to seek arguments to persuade you. I see you have proper Ideas of the Quantities of Salt which may be manufactured The Market is large & may be depended on. Realize, then, the well founded prospects. By serving yourself, you

* See page 159.

serve the publick; and great advantage with certain Honour, must be your reward.

Referring you to M^r^ Davidson,*

I remain,

Sir,

To M^r^ Thomas Savadge.

General Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Jany^r^ 16^th^, 1778.

Sir,

A Committee of Congress, Col^l^ Reed, M^r^ Harvey, M^r^ Dana, and Gen^l^ Fulsom, are ordered to consult with you and Council on the Expediency of an Expedition this winter against Philad^a^; and on your encouragement depends the undertaking, which is to be determined by the Committee in conjuction w^h^ G. Washington, and three members of the new board of war, Gen^l^ Gates, Gen^l^ Mifflin and Col^l^ Pickering. The expediency or inexpediency, I believe, will chiefly depend on our State's supplying at least our own Militia that shall be called out, with provisions *at the Continental expence*, grounded on y^r^ offer, and surely, every nerve will be exerted, for if we do not retake our Capital this winter, besides the horrid devastation the Enemy may make next Spring, in this State, when reinforced, when shall we be able to rout them out of Philadelphia? If the voice of Providence may be concluded from the offers of neighbouring States, in addition to the Continental Army and our own Strength, surely we may say without presumption, on this and many other accounts, now is the most opportune occasion. Maryland has offered 3000 Militia, Virginia 10 Regiments, besides 2000 new Recruits to fill up her Battalion; N° Carolina ; besides that, New Jersey is full of ardour, and would fly to the Attack. I trust no discouragement will be given by our State. I know that the shameful want of provisions is to be attributed to an erroneous arrangement of the Commissorial Department; but it is no time for recrimination; cannot our State ingage skilful patriotic purchasers, and in different parts of this and in the neighbouring States, with full exertion, gain the necessary supplies of meat as well as Bread provision. Baron Steuben, a L^t^ General, and experienced Officer in the King of Prussia's Service, has offered his Services to Congress, which are accepted, and he required to repair to Gen^l^ Washington's H^d^ Quarters. The Business of the Committee w^h^ the three Gentl^l^ of the board of war &

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 403.

Gen^{l} W., are to reform the army by reducing the Regiments, and introducing discipline. The Baron may be very useful on the occasion.

I am, respectively,
Sir,
Y^{r} most ob. hum^{e} Ser^{t},
DAN^{l} ROBERDEAU.*

P. S. The Council will naturally correspond with Col^{l} Reed on this occasion, who may have considerable wait in the Council at Head Quarters.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Council to David Rittenhouse, 1778.

Lancaster, January 16th, 1778.

Sir,

Council wish that you abstract into an advertisement the late act of Assembly for opening the State Loan Office, in order to take in payments of the £150,000 emission of bills of credit, and publish the same in the newspapers here, at York and Burlington, for some weeks to come. Your name added would give it authority.

I am Sir,
Your very hum^{ble} serv^{t},
T^{y} MATLACK, Sec^{ry}.

Directed,

To David Rittenhouse, Esq^{r}, Treasurer.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, January 16, 1778.

Resolved,

That Congress highly applaud the rising spirit of the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, to regain the Capital of their State, and drive out our cruel invaders. That Congress are ready and willing with all their power to co-operate with them for effecting this salutary purpose. That to this end the Committee appointed to go to the camp, be directed to consult with the President and Council of the State

* See below—also, see Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 404.

of Pennsylvania, and with Gen[l] Washington on the subject; and if upon consultation the measure shall be deemed practicable, that they be fully impowered to call on the neighbouring States for such aids as they shall think necessary, and take every measure which they shall think proper for effecting the end proposed.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Copy.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, Jan'y 17[th], 1778.

Sir,

I have the Honour of enclosing sundry Resolves of Congress, into which they were obliged to enter from the alarming Situation of our Army, not only as to their present but future Supplies. You will observe the Necessity of your immediately communicating to the Board the Measures taken by this State as to the Supply of the Army & laying up Magazines, as their Proceedings in the Business are by the Resolutions of Congress connected with yours. As the Occasion is pressing, you will be kind enough speedily to give the Board the necessary Information.

I have the Honour to be
with great respect,
your obed. Serv[t]

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

The Enquiries in which the Board beg to be satisfied are :

What is already done as to the Business ?

What Prospects, on which Dependance can be placed, have the Council of sufficient Quantities being procured ?

Where are the Magazines in which the Council have laid up, or intend to lay up the Provisions ?

The Quantities & Species of Provisions ordered to be purchased or already bought ?

The Means of Transportation from the Places of Purchase to the Magazines, or from them to the Army.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 404.

And whether the Teams are to be impressed, & in what manner, or Dependance placed upon voluntary hiring?

What Persons are employed in the Business?

As the Service so indispensably requires the Board to be informed of every particular, the Council will please to excuse the Minuteness of their Enquiries which they have necessarily gone into, as every Exertion is requisite to enable us to lay up Provisions in a reasonable Time. The End of March is the latest Period which can be allowed for the Completion of the whole.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President of the State of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Instructions of Council to James Davidson, 1778.

In Council, Pennsylvania.
Lancaster, January 17th, 1778.

Sir,

As the Salt Works erected in the State of New Jersey, at the expence of this State, is an affair of great consequence, not only to the inhabitants of this Common Wealth, but the Publick in general; and as those Works have not produced any salt, altho' a very considerable sum has already been expended, Council is greatly distressed at the disappointment, and anxious to remedy the evil. It is therefore their desire that you immediately repair to said Works, and take upon you the management and direction of them as fully and amply as Council could do were they present themselves. In order to carry them on to the utmost extent, I herewith enclose you an order on the State Treasurer for £ , and have written a letter to Commodore Hazelwood to furnish you with Men and a discreet Officer, as a Guard, as well as to render any other assistance in their power.

Mr. Thomas Savadge is part owner of them, and will no doubt co-operate with you in such measures as will tend most to benefit this State. If an Ox Team or other Team should be wanted at the Works, you are empowered to purchase or Hire them, as you may find most eligible. And such other matter or thing that you may find useful you will please to procure on the best terms you can.*

Mr. James Davidson.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 403.

Colonel Clement Biddle to T. Matlack, 1778.

Moorhall, Jan. 18, 1778.

Sir,

This day I received your favour of 12th Inst., relative to the Cloths & Shalloons belonging to Mr. Joseph Carson.* Some time ago I received an order from His Excellency, General Washington, to collect clothing or articles necessary to make them for the Army, & to give an order for such as I collected on the Clothier General or to pay for them at reasonable rates. Some time in December the General having received information that Mr. Carson had a quantity of leather Breeches & some Cloth, I was ordered to Easton to procure the same. On my arrival there I met Mr. Carson, who delivered me about 1100 pair Leather Breeches, which he expressed great willingness to furnish the Army with, & he inform'd that besides a bale of Cloth which was there & delivered me he would supply Ten or Eleven Bales more of Cloth & Shalloons which he had offered to Mease & Caldwell but they thought the prices too high or the Cloths too good for the Army. I knew the want of them & that the Generals orders to me were too urgent to loose so valuable a prize. Mr. Carson not only informed me where they were but soon after gave an order on Mr. Burr, in whose possession they were, in the great swamp, to deliver them to my order. I told him he should be allowed a just price for them, & he assured me the Bill he delivered was much less than he would have for them, but I could not even form a comparative Judgment of the prices, as I neither saw the Cloths, except one bale, unopened, & was unacquainted with the prices current. I can only say that Mr. Carson was very willing to part with them to the Army & informed where they were when they could not be otherwise found, that he insisted on the prices charged in his Bill as reasonable. I was bound to take them without fixing the price. His readiness to deliver them I conceive entitles him to the full value such Cloths sold for at that time.

The removal of the sick prevented me taking the Cloths from the swamp til I sent an express to Col. Hooper to send a number of waggons to remove them to Lancaster, when I received for answer that the Lieutenant of the County had seized them for this State, which I conceived to be the most proper application that could be made of them, & of course did no more on the occasion.

You will please to communicate this to Council.

From, Sir,

Your mo. obed^{t} Serv^{t},

CLEMENT BIDDLE, C. G. B.

I lately received a letter from Capt. Biddle, of the Randolph

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 397, also ante, p. 180.

Frigate. in which he informs me your son was well & much respected for his good behaviour.

Directed,

On publick Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, y^e^ 19th January, 1778.

Sir,

I beg leave to request your Excellency will be pleased to obtain the Draft, I did myself the honor some time since to enclose you, drawn by Owen Jones, jun^r^,* one of the Quaker Prisoners at Winchester, on Mr. Matthias Slough, in favour of Jacob Sittler.

Mr. Sittler has employed an Inhabitant of this Town, Henry Walter, to go to Lancaster, receive the Draft, & obtain the money. Your assistance in procuring the Draft & delivering the same to H. W——, agreeable to Sittler's Directions, will much oblige.

Sir,

Your very ob^t^,
Humble Serv^t^,

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

1778, Jan^ry^ 21.

Rec'd of Timothy Matlack, Esq^r^, Owen Jones's (One of y^e^ prisoners in Virginia) draft on Matthias Slough, in favour of Jacob Sittler, for 532 continental dollars, dated Winchester, 2d Dec^r^, 1777, which draft was sent to Council by the Honble Board of War.

HENRY WALTER.

Directed,

On public service.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun'r, Pres^t^, Pennsylvania.

* See page 56.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 19th Jan'y, 1778.

Sir,

I have the pleasure of observing, by a publication in Dunlap's paper, that before the adjournment of the Assembly of this State, they had, among other wholesome laws, enacted one "for filling the quota of Troops to be raised in this State."

As you may, perhaps, be ignorant of the reduced condition of your Regiments, I have thought proper to inclose you a Return, by which you will see how very deficient they are at present, as to the number required by the allottment. You will also perceive by a note at the Bottom of the Return, how destitute the men in the field are in point of Cloathing.

I had sent out officers from every Regiment to procure Cloathing for their men, and they were collecting considerable quantities when Col. Bayard and Mr. Young, a deputation from the assembly, waited upon me, and desired me to call in the officers, informing me that they had appointed Commissioners in every County to purchase necessaries for the Army, which would be a mode more agreeable to the inhabitants, than if done in the military way. What these Commissioners have done I do not know, but no Cloathing has yet come to the Army thro' their hands. Genl. Wayne informed me that he understood it was collected and stored at Lancaster, and he went up about ten days ago to enquire into the matter.

It being recommended to every state to procure what cloathing they can for their own troops, I trust yours will not be backward. From the quantity of raw materials and the number of workmen among your people, who being principally against arms, remain at home, and manufacture, I should suppose you had it more in your power to cover your Troops well than any other State.

The Continent will continue to import and to purchase on the general account what they can. I am therefore in hopes that the exertions of the States, aided by foreign importations, will contribute to cloath our Troops more comfortably and plentifully than they have heretofore been. But as there are so many impediments in the way of the latter kind of supply I could wish that no great dependence may be put upon it, but that we may rely principally upon our internal manufacture.

I shall be glad to be fav[d] with a Copy of the law for raising your quota of Men, and have the honor to be with great Respect,

Sir,

Your most ob[t] Serv[t],

G[o]. WASHINGTON.

Directed.—On public Service. To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq[r], President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Favour'd by Genl. Potter.

* See answer, Jan. 22, p. 200.

Col. Bull to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Dr Sir,

I arrived at Hummelstown the night I left Lancaster, where I found my People, I yesterday waited upon Col. McCane and Intend Dining with him this Day. The River is full of Ice and Likely to Continue. My being inactive has Given me a Reflection upon my fate in the Last Long Campain and shall Take the Liberty of Troubling you with a Line upon some of the Circumstances, it is well known to many that about this time Twelve months the Council of Safety order'd a great quantity of Cannon Ball from Phila. to my house thinking it a place of greater security than the City, it is Easy to Conceive that the sight of these and a quantity of Intrenching tools which Lay in a Small Building adjacent together with my being in the Service, were the greatest Inducements to the Enemies Reeking their Vengence upon the Chief Part of my Property, and by Reason of my Public Engagements, it was not in my power to Pay the Necessary attention to the Small Remainder, otherways then sending Mrs. Bull and family (for the Present) to a Distant Land until times will admit of their return, the whole of these my misfortunes Did not affect me so much as after my having Served this State through the Fatiegues of a Tedious Campain I should be Dismis'd the Service Before I Reach half way to my Distress'd family I Say not a word for the advantages arising from ye service for every man Knows that he who is Deepest Engaged is a Looser, I can aver that all my Pay will not support my Self, exclusive my family, but that is by no mean the Cause of this Line, it is my going for the Present to a Strange Neighbourhood, and having been Constantly Employed in Publick service am now Dismised.* If I have Neglected it or have not faithfuly Performed the several Trusts &c., then I am Justly treated, but if I have, I leave others to judge. My Consolation is that while Heaven suports my spirits no man can Deprive me of being my Countrys friend. You will Excuse the freedom and hurry, as Mr. Dehaven has one foot in ye sterip and Col. McCane Expects me.

Sir your obt
Humble servt
JNO. BULL.

Jan. ye 19th, 1778, 11 o'clock A. M.

Directed,

To ye Hon. George Bryan, Esq.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 400, where the Council expressly disavow any intention to have him consider it "as a dismission in consequence of some disapprobation of his conduct," they deeming his services any longer unnecessary, and not intending "to appoint another in his room."

J. B. Smith to T. Matlack, 1778.

York Town, Jan 19th, 1778.

Dr Sir,

Your letter to Mr. Thompson concerning the Journals of Congress was given to the Committee for conducting the publication of which I am.

The Committee wish them to remain at Lancaster till further orders, & are negotiateing with Mr. Dunlap for continueing them. If you see him I wish you would urge his coming to this place immediately.

Our last accounts from Europe discover a very unsettled system of Politics in the Courts, but at the same time the preparations for war are very great, & the indulgences & favours to America almost beyond description, several others appear to wait for the decisions at Versailles, but are apparently more matured, especially that of Madrid. The loss of Ticondª hurt us much. The fate of Burgoyne will re-establish. As to domestic affairs you are fully informed. Congress has decisive orders in the case of our unhappy prisoners. We have a deputation from the friends in Virginia in behalf of their Society, which is referred to a Committee.

My respects to Mrs. Matlack, Mr. Marshall & friends with you.

I am Sir
with regard
yr frd & v. h. St

J. B. SMITH.

Directed,

To Col. Timothy Matlack, Sec. to S. Ex. Council, Lancaster.

President Wharton to Col. S. Hunter, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, January 19th, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the fourteenth* Instant I received and laid it before Council. I am greatly distressed to find that the Savages have committed acts of hostilities in your county, as well as in the other frontier counties of this State. It is necessary that an armed force of the militia be kept up in the counties of Philadelphia and Bucks, to prevent the enemy as much as may be doing violence to the inhabitants who are greatly expos'd to their ravages on the East side

* See page 175.

of the river Schuylkill, as on them, and not on the regular troops, we must depend during the winter in that quarter. Yet, it is as necessary that the frontier inhabitants be protected from the insults and murders of the Savage tribe; and therefore Council are of opinion with you, that a part of the militia of your county should be employed on that necessary Service, and as it is not possible at present to determine what number may be wanted to aid the good people of your county, Council think it advisable for you not to Send the militia of the fifth class of your County to Camp, as ordered in mine of the fifth Instant, but order out such part of them as may be usefully employed to protect the Said Inhabitants, agreeable to the within resolve.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., Presid^{t}.

Col^{o}. Samuel Hunter,
Lieutenant of Northumberland County.

T. Matlack to Board of War, 1778.

Lancaster, January 20, 1778.

Sir,

A letter from the Deputy Secretary of your hn'ble Board, dated the 17th,* mentions "Sundry resolves of Congress" being enclosed, which are not contained therein; Council is, therefore, at a loss to know what these resolves are I am directed to forward to you. The enclosed two laws, one printed in the publick paper, the other transcribed from the Original, will give you the best answer to the Several queries contained in Mr. Nourse's letter, that it is in the power of Council to give, you will perceive that the Commissioners appointed to purchase provisions are under the directions of Congress, as to the quantity and place of securing it. A Copy of this law has been sent forward for Congress before now, but has been delayed.

A list of the Waggon Masters appointed in consequence of the regulation of Waggons below.

T. M.

To the Hn'ble President of the Board of War.
Sent express by Wm. Harding.

* See page 186, and letter Jan. 21, page 195.

Circular of Council to Lieutenants, 1778.

Lancaster, Jan'y 20, 1778.

Sir,

I am directed by Council to request that you will give immediate attention to the arms of the Militia in your county, so as to have them in as good order as possible, in a short time. And also, that you will obtain and forward to Council a return of all the Publick arms in the hands of each battalion of your county, without delay. You will please to consider this order as an important one, and that it ought to be attended to with great diligence and executed with dispatch.

I am, very respectfully,

Your humble Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To Lieutenants of Berks, Northampton, by Col°. Stroud.
Northumberland, by David Harris, Esq^r.

Regulations for the Main Guard, at Lancaster, 1778.

Which are Strictly to be attended to.

Article 1st. The Officer of the Guard is constantly to attend at the Guard House, & give particular attention that no strong Liquor be permitted in among the Guard.

2d. There is at no time more than five Men allowed to be Absent from the Guard, & in no Case but when they go for their Victuals.

3d. No Soldier to Absent himself from the Guard without leave from the Officer, on pain of being confined.

4th. A non-commissioned Officer & 4 Privates to Patrole the Streets every two hours, & apprehend all Stragglers and Suspicious persons who can give no good Account of themselves, but great care is to be observ'd that none of the Inhabitants are Insulted.

5th. Any Soldier who shall be found Sleeping or entoxicated with Liquor on his Post, shall be confined & dealt with according as a Court Martial shall direct.

6th. The Centinols that are placed in the Town are not to Obstruct or prevent any of the Inhabitants from passing or repassing to their Homes, upon their answering when Challenged.

7th. The Officer of the Guard is to Vissit the Centries after the Countersign is given, as often as Circumstances may require, and See

that they Centinels are Alert, particularly at the Magazine and Storehouses.

8th. The Officer of the Guard is to make a Report every morning to the Town Major.

The Compliance of these Orders is expected both from Officer & Soldiers, and will be inspected into.

CHRIST'N WIRTZ, T. Major.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Sec'ry, Pres[t].*

Indorsement,

From Major Wirtz, Jan'y 20, 1778.

Col. John Piper to President Wharton, 1778.

Bedford County, Jan[r] 20th, 1778.

Sir,

I would Beg Leave to Enform, that on my Return from Councill the Distressing Situation of our fronteers oblidgd me to Call upon the Sub l[t]s to Consult upon measures to prevent our fronteers from Being Entirely Evacuated, when we wire oblidgd to Adopt the following measures, viz: to Give orders to Raise 30 men for the defence of the Settelmt called the Gleads, 40 men for the Senter divission, Encluding Bedford, thirty men for Frankstown, and the same number for Sinking Valley, and thirty men to Guard the Inhabitants of Harts Log Settelmt and Shavers Creek; the urgant Call for these men, and the Exorbitantt Prices of all articles, Lay[d] us under the necessity of augmenting their Pay to five Pounds Pr month, the men to Be engag'd for the space of nine months, unless sooner dischargd. These People Have Repeatedly applyd to me, praying their Situation to Be Layd Before Councill, and Assureing Councill of their determinations to make a Stand—if they meet with this necessary Assistance, they Likewise Pray that a Suitable Person may be Apointed to Lay a Small Store of Provission at each Post to Suply Scouting Party, or other troops who may be Employd as Guards. If these measures are aproven by Councill the People will Stand, and if Rejected, I have the Greatest Reason to Believe, that upon the first alarm from Indians A great Part of our County will Be Left desolate. These measures we Have Adopted is by no means to be understood as acting against Authority, But in Compliance with the order of Councill, of the 9th of December, and the Situation of our County Renders it impossable to Call the People

* See letter, Jan. 22, p. 201.

out in Classes; these Considerations I Beg Leave to Lay Before Councill, and Refar to Col. Davis for further Enformation.

And am, Sir,

With due Regard, your

Excellencys most obdt Hble Servt.

JOHN PIPER.

P. S. The Pressing Call for Money obliges us to Press our demand for a further Suply, By this Bearer, Col. Davis, who is apointed to wait upon Councill for that Purpose.

I am, &c.

J. P.

Directed,

The Honourable Presidant in Councill, Lancaster.

Board of War to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

War Office, y^e^ 21st Jan'y, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you the Regulations of Congress referr'd to in the Letter from the Board, of the 17th, which were omitted, being enclosed, a Circumstance particularly unlucky, as their Contents are of much importance to the general weal, be pleased to favour the Board with your answer on the subject of my Letter of the 17th,* with which the Regulations of Congress are connected.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very humble Serv^t^.

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Directed,

On Public Service—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., Presid^t^ of the State of Pennsilv^a^, Lancaster.

℔ Express.

* See pages 185, 192.

R. M'Calester to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Janr. 22d, 1778.

Sr,

The Militia of this County seems determined not to march, or at least the Greatest Part of them, there being Grate Complaints made by those Classes that have Marched respecting their pay, which they say they have not Recd, and maney of them poor & not able to bear it—at least it afoards to those Called an Excuse that they will not be paid after Marching in the Extremity of wether. Could this be seteled wh them believe they wd Goo something freelyer.

Indeed, it is allmost Impossable to Git a Cunstable to do his Duty in Respect of the Militia, or any other Person, to undertake the Colecting the Money—they will rather Goo to Prison, and Grate Part of the Excuse is the Militia not being Paid, & Supose they never will, &c.

I am Exercising Every Power in me to Send them forth but am Doubtful of there Numbers at this time. I have not as yet Got a Return from the Subs of the Numbers Marched, altho Repeatedly Called on them for it, nor the Money from more then two of them, which should be Refunded. I am now out on that busnes.

Appals are held in Sundry Places for the 6th & 7th Classes, and Next week there is several Companys are ordered to march to my Knoledge, and I am now out in Diferant Parts to hurry them out, but the Coldness of the wether, & the Grumbling about the Pay is in Every mouth. Should Council be of the oppinion, & Give an order to the Paymaster of this County for the Money in my hands, to Discharg the Debts Due the Militia, perhaps it wd be a means of Quieting them, & Leave them no Excuse.

I am, wh Due Respect,

Yr Exelencys

Most Obt Hue Sert.

R'D M'CALESTER.

Wm. Scott, Paymaster of York County.*

Directed,

His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Exe Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 406.

Lewis Nicola to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

When I went to Bethlehem to pay my respects to General Gates, I met Col. Hooper, who informed me of the insufficiency of the militia guard here for the care of the prisoners of war & ferries, tho' the keeping them was attended with a considerable expence to the state, and asked whether it was not possible to send some of the Invalid Reg' here to do those duties, prompted not only by duty, but a real inclination to contribute to the good of the State of Pennsylvania, I was happy my orders from his Excellency Gen'l Washington, tho directed to one object, the care of the hospitals, allowed me sufficient latitude to answer this purpose without waiting for further orders, I therefore altered my first plan of having the head quarters of the regiment at Northampton, & removed them here, where I soon found the measure very necessary, as on my visiting the prison I found 40 prisoners entrusted to the care of two sentries, one at the door and one in the yard, on which I made the Invalids take that guard & disposed them in the manner I thought most eligible, a coppy of my orders I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency.

It has been very providential for this place & the credit of American discipline that there was not among the prisoners, one man of a moderately bold & enterprising genius who might have inspired them with the desire of liberty, & burning this town after plundering it of such articles as were most valuable & easiest carried which might have been performed with very little difficulty or danger, & their retreat to Philadelphia made good. That I may not be looked on as a visionary person I beg leave to lay before you, the easy steps leading to this catastrophe.

I mentioned already that a sentry was placed in the yard to which the prisoners had free access at all hours of the night, none of them being locked up in their rooms at that time, this sentry might easily have been surprised & disarmed, & then an opportunity watched when the front door was opened for the admission of the relief, to seize the passage, secure the corporal & sentries, and arm themselves, the remainder of the guard, consisting only of two men would probably be found asleep, if one or two small wooden buildings most likely to take fire quickly were set on fire, and the alarm thereof spread every door would soon be opened, & free admission given to the plunderers who might rifle them of money, plate, arms & ammunition, & encrease the fires, nor would they have any enemy to fear but their own rapaciousness which might prevent their retiring in time & over loading themselves with plunder, possibly some American might be base enough to show them the road to Philadelphia, if not they might compel some country people, by the fear of immediate death, to lead them by the most safe, & private roads, while the inhabitants of this

town would be employed in extinguishing the fires which, if many, might so divide their attention as to endanger the destruction of the whole.

As I brought here but 25 men fit for duty, & 9 of them are daily on guard, it was impossible for me to provide for the Ferry, nor did I think it any way necessary, as every other ferry on this river is at present unguarded, & any person who choses to cross over from sinister views may easily avoid this; should your Excellency & the Council think otherwise, I know not how it can be remedied, unless by obtaining an order for me to bring a detachment of the regiment, now at Bethlehem, here; what motives induced the General to order the Invalides to attend the hospitals, I do not know, unless he did it at the desire of Dr. Shippen, who had often spoke to me about it in Trenton, nor can I see the utility of the measure, as Dr. Brown at Bethlehem, and Dr. Otto here have not any occasion for them further than Dr. Brown thinks a small guard might be necessary to confine delinquents from the hospitals, but this service Dr. Otto has performed by convalescents, & he says every hospital might do the same.

Many of my people are almost naked & besides what they suffer from the severity of the weather the appearance of many of them is offensive to decency for which reason I have applied to Mr. Mease for a supply; I am informed there is some clothing here collected in the County, by your Excellencies order, whether for the use of the State or Continent, I know not, but if the latter an order of its being delivered to me would be a saving of the expense of sending the Q^{r} M^{r} Serjeant to Lancaster & of a waggon to carry the cloathing, & to return.

I thought it my duty to inform your Excellency of the above particulars relative to the guards here, one particular I forgot is that the English prisoners in goal are very sickly; of 40, eighteen were reported to me sick this morning, one of which is since dead, & two were buried yesterday, there are, as I am informed about as many Hessian prisoners, but I found them all at liberty.

I have the honour to assure your Excellency that I am with respect

Your most hum^{l}

& Obed^{t} Serv^{t}

LEWIS NICOLA.

Easton, Jan'y 22d, 1778.

Easton, Jan'y 19, 1778.

The Guard at the Prison to Consist of 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp., & 9 men & to post 3 Sentries, one at the front door who is to take care that none of y^{e} prisoners escape by the front of the Prison, & one at each corner of the wall outside, to prevent any escaping that way, if any

of the sentries hear a noise of working at the wall or in the Ground they must give notice thereof to the Guard, & the Serj^{t} must enquire into the cause of it. Before the prisoners are let into the yard in a morning, & immediately after they are lock'd up in the evening, the Serj^{t} of the Guard must examine the walls & ground of the yard, & walls of the prison to see that no attempt has been made to break through or undermine, when the prisoners are lock'd up, the sentries outside the yard must be removed, one placed in the yard who must be attentive to any noise in the Prison, & Give notice thereof to the Serj^{t} of y^{e} Guards, the other sentrie placed in the front, must frequently visit the Ends of the prison & Listen to any noise of working in the prison, & if he hears any, Give notice thereof to the Serj^{t} of the Guard. While the Corporal is relieving the Sentries the Serj^{t} of the new Guard must examine all the inside of the prison to find out any work of the prisoners to escape by breaking through the wall, undermining, or Cutting the bars of the windows, Lock or hinges of the doors, &c., & the Serj^{t} of the old Guard must keep both ready to repulse any attempt of the Prisoners; no sentry is to fire into the Prison or prison yard, but may at any prisoner who forces out if he cannot otherwise secure him.

Order of Board of War, 1778.

(Copy).

At a Board of War y^{e} 22d January, 1778.

Order'd,

That Colonel Robert Lettis Hooper, D. Q. Master General exercise the same Powers in the hiring or impressing Teams he has heretofore done under the orders of His Excellency General Washington or other his Superior officer, any Regulations or Directions from any Person not acting in Virtue of the orders or the Powers vested in his Excellency within the Limits therein mentioned, notwithstanding.

By Order of the Board.

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

The above is a true copy,

JAS. YOUNG, W. M. G. S. P.

Council to General Washington, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, Jan^{y} 22nd, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellency's letter of the 19th* Instant has been laid before the Council.

My letter to you of the 15th† Instant, by Mr. James Davidson, who was delayed a day or two unexpectedly, contains a state of the business relating to cloathing. It is only necessary to add, that General Wayne, as I understand, had employed M^{r} Zantsinger, of this borough, to procure him a quantity of cloathing previous to the late recommendation of Congress; that the Clothier General has paid part of his bill, and no doubt will settle with him for the remainder, as it is a contract made before this State, was directed to supply its troops with cloathing. General Wayne has been with Council within a few days. You may depend that, as the troops of Pennsylvania were always well cloathed while under the immediate care of the State, attention to this important supply will be given by the Council, so as to prevent any future just complaint.

The reduced condition of the Regiments of Pennsylvania is to us unaccountable. It, however, only remains to do the best we can to make them more formidable. Council would have been pleased to have seen in the return the state of the commissioned officers.

Inclosed is a transcript of the law which your Excellency requested might be sent you, and also extracts from the supply law, which were struck off separate from the law itself, as the printers could not possibly get thro' the whole in time to furnish the Commissioners of Congress, now on their way to Camp.

P. S. One of the Waggon Drivers, who came out with the cloathing for the prisoners of war, having passed, in this borough, a six dollar counterfeit bill, in the likeness of a Continental bill, was arrested and searched this afternoon; five other bills of the same kind were found upon him. Some circumstances occurred which rendered several others of the party strongly suspected; they were searched all, except the officers, and several bills of the same kind were found upon each of three of them. Whereupon the Magistrates have committed them to Goal. The enclosed letter was also found in the possession of one of the serjeants.

Indorsed,

To His Excellency General Washington.

Sent by Doctor M^{c}Vaugh.

* See page 189. † See page 180.

Timothy Matlack to Major Wirtz, 1778.

Lancaster, Jan^{y} 22nd, 1778.

Sir,

The report of orders given by you, as Town Major,* to the Guards of this borough, has been laid before the Council, who have made no objection to them.

I informed you that several instances had happened, wherein those orders have been violated, and the inhabitants insulted, and also, that complaints have been made of the Guards having interfered with the civil prisoners now confined in the Goal, with whom neither they nor you have any thing to do. It was reasonable to expect that you would have paid some attention to matters of such importance. But these abuses are yet continued, which afford some ground of suspicion that they are still countenanced by you.

By your young man, I requested that you would inform me who was officer of the guard on Sunday night last, as I had been insulted by the guard that evening, a few minutes after nine o'clock. This you have not furnished me with, nor should I have insisted upon it, if the practice had been discontinued. I want no satisfaction to myself further than is necessary for the publick safety. I now repeat that demand and expect your answer in writing, in order to a full investigation of this abuse.

It seems also to be necessary to repeat to you that you have not any thing to do with the economy of the Goaler with his civil prisoners—to this you will please to give a proper attention.

Jan^{y} 22, 1778. T. M.

To Major Wirtz.

Prest. Wharton to Gen. Washington, 1778.

Lancaster, January 23rd, 1778.

Sir,

A controversy having arisen in this borough between a tavern keeper and one of the officers which your Excellency permitted to come out of Philadelphia with cloathing for the British and Hessian prisoners, about the price to be paid for the provisions with which the officer had been supplied. Lieutenant Patterson laid the bill, together with his own before the Council, who sent for the tavern keeper, examined into the complaint, and were satisfied that, altho the charge was high, it was no more than is now charged to all

* See page 193.

travellers for such articles. But it seems the officer expected a considerable abatement is to be made in consideration of his paying in gold and silver. Against this there is a positive penal law of the State, intended to prevent as much as possible, the depreciation of the continental currency—And Congress have ordered into close confinement one of the Philadelphia quaker prisoners, in Virginia, for having sent a few half Joe's to this borough and had them sold at an advanced price for continental money.

The officer also pleads that it is stipulated with you, that provisions are to be supplied to them at *reasonable rates*. The Council are of opinion that this is done when they are supplied at the rates which are charged to our own officers travelling the same road; but were it otherwise, we have no authority to make regulations of prices and to compel a supply in such cases. Lieutenant Patterson represents, that on the officer being informed of this opinion he has determined to return back immediately, which obliges me to trouble your Excellency with this representation of the facts.

Directed,

To His Excellency General Washington.

GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JR., TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Camp Graham Park, Jan. 24th, 1778.

Sir,

None of the Classes Lately Ordered out have yet Arrived, and the times of those here are Almost Expired; the numbers I have are by no means sufficient for the Duty Necessary for their own safety, and stoping the Intercourse between the Country and City.

My numbers at this place are about Seventy Rank and file, at Smithfield Eighty, and at the Spring House and Plymouth Meeting, Both Included, about three Hundred, these are all my Strength; the times of the whole will be up by the first of February.

As for the Light Horse Ordered from Philad^{a} and Bucks County, not one of them yet appear, some of the Lieu^{ts} of Philad^{a} County Assure me they have not Rec'd any Orders to Raise or Send any, and I believe are Doing nothing in that way.

My numbers are Redused so Low and the Detached parties on Different Roads so Distant, that we Cannot by no Means Act together, Either by pattroles or in Case of allarm; by which means some of the Roads Leading to my Camp are Left Unguarded and open to Surprise from the Enemy, I therefore think it Advisable and most Prudent to remove my quarters three or four miles further Back into the Country, and wait a Reinforcement.

An axident hapened in Camp this day by a number of Cartriges

taken fire by axident, blew up and burnt five men very badly, but I believe not Dangerous, they were sorting the Damaged Cartriges when they took fire, the Number Lost is Computed to be about Six or Seven thousand, the Cartridges was in a tent, which blew up, and Set fire to some Others which Stood Near, and were all Consumed, with a number of Blankets and Cartriage Boxes in them, the numbers not Exactly known.

I am Sir, with Respect,

your most obedient

Humble servant,

JOHN LACEY, ju'r.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Jun., Esq'r, President to Executive Council, State of Pennsylvania.

William Crispin to President Wharton, 1778.

Dear Sir,

It is impossible for me to Live here much Longer Without a supply of Cash, as I am out of Credit and out of Money, if I had Cash* I Could Get Provisions, the People Say that they are willing to part with what they can spare, Provided we Pay Cash, but to take Receipts & then Dance Attendance for pay, is What Put them so out of Humour that they Deny they have any thing. Pray Send me Some Whiskey, I have Not Received any Except What You Send me by Mr. Kimel; it Takes between 2 & three Hundred Galls of rum a week, We have Seized Several Hhds, & the People are Clamorous for their Pay, Pray Send me what you Can spare by the bearer, Who Can tell you how we are Distressed for that Necessary article; I am fearful of being Ill Used for want of it.

I am with Respect

yours to serve,

WM. CRISPIN.

Trenton, Jan^{y} 24th, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency Tho^{s} Wharton Esq^{r}, President of the State of Pensylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. VI., p. 408.

Col. William Bradford to President Wharton, 1778.

Trenton, January 24, 1778.

Sir,

We are under Necessity of sending the Pay Master to your Excellency for some Cash,* there being now almost two Months pay due the Men, and Mr. Crispin is in great Want indeed.

Some little Time ago Major Boys applied for the loan of Two of our Guard Boats, which he would man & victual at his own Expence, and take them Down to Cohansey, thinking he could take some vessels from the Enemy. We lent the two and put an officer & Ten men in each, to take them down as far as Coopers Creek, from whence he was to take them by land. They got to Coopers Creek in the Evening, and when the officers went to sleep the Crews ran of with the Boats and carried them to the Enemy. One other Boat we fitted out under the Command of Cap^{t} Collins, and he took her by Land from Burlington, and hope he has got down safe. In case this Boat should take any Prize what part is the State to draw, and how is the Prize to be divided. We told Cap^{t} Collins that the Commodore and all the Fleet must draw a part of all he should take. We pray your Excellency will send down by Billy Bradford how the Prizes, if any, should be divided.

The greatest part of the Powder is removed from this, but the Cannon we cannot move, as there is no Waggon to be got that will bear them, however shall do the best I can. I am left here alone, none of the Board being with me. I am also tired being here, had much rather be in action with the Militia. I am

your Excellency's

most H^{ble} Serv^{t},

W^{m} BRADFORD.

Directed

To His Excellency Tho^{s} Wharton, Esq^{r}, President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. VI., p. 408.

General Gates, President of Board of War, to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, Jan'y 26th, 1778.

Sir,

The Board have received undoubted Information that Mr William Henry, Lieut of the City of Philadelphia, is going thro' the Country engaging large Quantities of Whiskey, at a most enormous Price.* He gives 30*s.* & 30*s.* 6*d.* ℔ Gallon, & offers to take all the Distillers can bring him at that Price. Two young Fellows, Frederick Sickle & Paul Beck, were employed by John Pitzer, of Lancaster County, near Hinckle Town, who has sold Mr Henry 2,000 Gallons, at 30*s.* 6*d.*, & sent three young Fellows to purchase in this County, agreeing to give 27*s.* to them, that he might get 30*s.* 6*d.* from Mr Henry. I am to represent the Iniquity of this Proceedi'g, especially in a Person who has appeared in a public Character; but as some Intimations were thrown out by Mr Henry, or the Person employing the young Fellows above named, that he was buying for the Public, the Board thought it best to inquire of your Excellency into the Truth of it; & I am to request your immediate Information. If the Fact be otherwise, & Mr Henry is among the Class of Speculators & Engrossers, I am to request you will be pleased to give your Assistance in detecting the Quantities in Store, that the speediest Stop may be put to so nefarious a Traffic.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's

most Obedient

Humble Servant,

HORATIO GATES.

President.

'Tis said that Pitzer has been haulling to Camp, or to a store for 2 Weeks past, Whiskey, on Mr Henry's Acct. If this Liquor is a private Affair, it ought to be stopped, & all the Quantities deposited in store should be seized for public Use.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr, President of Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

(War Office)

Richard Peters.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 408.

General Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Jan^{y} 26th, 1778.

Sir,

The Dellegates of this State are honored with your Letter in Council, with its inclosures respecting the extraordinary interference of M^{r} Harvey & M^{r} Morris in the affairs of the British Convoy and the Innholder at Lancaster,* which were laid before Congress this afternoon, and deferred for consideration 'till tomorrow, when, I doubt not, your spirited Conduct will be highly approved and the treatment you met with, impunged. The subject was introduced under the idea of the Trojan Horse travelling thro' our land, not filled with men, but most probably with the more dangerous Enemy, Counterfeited Continental money, which may be part of the contents of the Bails in the Waggons, agreeable to the Specimen obtained of the Waggoners, whose imprisonment was applauded by every member who spoke on the subject, as the searching every person of the Escort, and of all the packages would have been; but most of all, the bringing every traitorous Conspirator against the Liberties of these States by so diabolical a scheme, would redound to the honor of our State, and would be seasonable Victims, in terrorem, to our much injured Country. You will have opportunity of special inquiry into any further hidden machinations, as the Board of War have stopped the progress of the Waggons, and I hope it will be improved, and that you will not hold the sword of justice in vain. Congress has no right to interfere in our civil policy, nor will it be presumed; however, their result on the Subject of the papers above mentioned, will be communicated as soon as I have it in my power. The copy of the Letter forwarded to Gen^{l} Washington, found on the Serjeant, would have been very satisfactory; pray, favor me with it without delay, with a particular account of the Escort, and the ostensible rank they bear, for I very much suspect ficticious Characters. I also requets to know something more particular of the conduct of the Cap^{t} & Lieu^{t}, bearers of the indecent paper delivered to the Secretary of Council, and whether they are not Continental Officers. The astonishing Conduct of the two members of Congress who were to have consulted with the State on the Subject of Supplies, is a presage of the unfortunate issue of that measure, concerning which you are intirely silent. I could weep over my suffering Country, cramped at this season for vigorous exertion, by the want of provisions, with which our Country abounds, and I wish I could clear our own State of the horrid sin of the Commissarial Department, from which, at the very time of that most mischievous arrangement, carried, I believe, by but one voice, I predicted the injuries we have and still suffer; for God's sake, for our Country's sake, never let a Dellegate represent the State from any consideration, one moment longer than he is

* See p. 200, 201.

faithful, or one moment after he is a subject of just suspicion. You would pardon me if you knew my sufferings and indignation on account of this and other Destructive measures, tho' very hurtful to the common cause, which a very feeble voice could not prevent. I pray you to cast about for some Characters 2, 3 or more, expert, faithful and active in the way of purchasing, that you can recommend to me—will Robt Towers do as one? I know he was indefatigable in another line of Duty. I pray you also to point out some elligible mode of procuring large quantities of biscuit, and proper persons for that branch, that I may be furnished with proper Characters to recommend to Congress; Ludwick, I fear, is incompetent. The use of flour instead of hard bread has been, I believe, the death of thousands. I beg to be favored with hearing from you soon, &

am, Sir,

Yr most obt humt Servt,

DANl ROBERDEAU.

The Commissary General, warmly recommended by our State, has just found out that he is incompetent to the business.

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, January 26, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Council have been informed that some doubts have arisen whether the army can be supplied in this state with wheat and flour. Upon mature consideration the Council are clearly of opinion that upon orders being given, either directly or thro' this Council, to the commissioners of purchases, mentioned in the late Act of Assembly, and money furnished for the purpose, the army can be fully supplied, and the proposed magazines filled, expeditiously and certainly. As there is undoubted intelligence from several counties which makes it evident that the Mills are unemployed, and very large quantities of Wheat in the hands of men ready and willing to deliver it into the hands of the Commissioners, some of which is in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. Of this we desire you will give to Congress & the Board of War the strongent assurances. As to Beef & Pork, Pennsylvania has not usually exported any considerable quantity, and therefore no dependance ought to have been had on a large supply from it, but there has not been a season in the memory of man in which the Pork in this State has been better fed in the woods than in the present season, and there is every reason to suppose that by a

timely attention as much at least might have been collected as ought to have been expected.

Directed,

To the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Sent by Jonathan Bayard Smith.

Council to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, January 26, 1778.

Sir,

Your letters of the first and fourteenth of this month* I had the honor to receive, and, in answer to the first, informed your Excellency that this Council is vested with the Supreme Executive power of the State, and that thro' the President thereof would be the proper channel of business of this State. But by the difficulty of crossing the river my letter has been delayed.

The resolves of Congress of the eighth instant,† have been read in Council and we have not the least doubt of the necessity and propriety of them, they have therefore our full approbation.

Directed,

His Exc'y Henry Laurens, Esqr.,

V. P. Bryan to Board of War, 1778.

Lancaster, January 27, 1778.

Sir,

Y^r^ letter of the 26^th^ Instant,‡ has been considered in Council. You may be assured, that William Henry, Lieu^t^ of Militia of the City of Philadelphia, has no authority from this Board for the purchasing of Whiskey or Provisions. The Commissary of the armed Boats in the Delaware, Will^m^ Crispin, Esquire, is the only purchaser in that line employed by this State, save the Commiss^rs^ named in the Act hereafter recited; he acts under the direction of William Bradford, Esq^r^, & others, forming a Navy Board, who sit near the falls of the River Delaware; Letters just received from thence makes it abundantly certain, that Mr. Henry's dealings are not for public account.

It gives some pain to Council to hear, that an officer of this State, who has really been servicable, should be charged with so pernicious a practice. They are however heartily disposed to make him, or any

* See page 152, 176. † See p. 162. ‡ See p. 205.

other guilty person, an example of the propriety of an ordinance of the late Council of Safety, provided against Engrossers & Forestallers, & if the fact can be supported by proper Evidence, they will countenance a prosecution. But if the lodgement of the goods is known, it would be a very prompt and advantagious remedy to set the Com^rs appointed in each County by the late Act of our Assembly for supplying Clothing and provisions, upon taking it at 8s. 6d. p^r gallon. Upon a claim, perhaps, Evidence of the forestalling would turn up, & complete the prosecution. I would observe, that the ordinance for fixing the price of Whiskey in common sale, is repealed by the Law last mentioned. You have lately been furnished with a copy of the act concerning Clothing and provisions, you will there find the names of the Commissioners, who are ordered to obey the instructions of Congress.

G. B., V. P.

Directed,

To H'ble President, Board of War.

Sent by Jonathan Bayard Smith.

Gen. Roberdeau to V. P. G. Bryan, 1778.

York Town, Jan'y 27th, 1778.

Sir,

I have but time to forward the enclosed which came to hand since my letter to the President last Evening, as it relates to the subject then treated of you'll be pleased to present it to Council with my Respects. Please to desire any friend comming this way to bring me two of Dilworth's spelling books or of Gand's. I am of the committee to revise and report on the Commissarys department, and I think it probable that purchasers will be appointed in each State, therefore I repeat my request to Council that proper persons may be recommended. I asked in my letter to Council, whether Rob^t Towers would do, I now desire to know what you think of F. Wade and Mr. Geo. Kennedy, as purchasers? I should be glad of a confirmation of the Militia in Jersey, taking a large body of the Enemy mentioned in a letter from Mr. Smith, who I expect forward, therefore do not write him.

I am respectfully, Sir,

Y^r most ob^t hum^e Serv^t.

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

The Hon^blo George Bryan, Esq^r., Lancaster.

Favored by Mr. W^m Bell, York Town, D. Roberdeau.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Wharton. 1778.

York Town, 27th January, 1778.

Sir,

Inclosed please to receive an Act of the 29th December, for bringing to punishment when practicable, such of the Inhabitants of these States as have join'd or who shall join the Enemy

And also under the same cover, an Act of the 21st Inst., relative to the treatment of Prisoners, prefaced by a recital of an Act of the 29th December, together with five Copies.

Col°. Smith has this Instant bro^t in Your Excellency's favour of yesterday, which shall be presented to Congress to morrow.

I have the honour to be,

With great Regard, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servt.

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President, Pennsylvania.

Col. Lutterloh to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

The present Situation of our Army requires a great Supply of Wood, forrage and Straw, which all must be brought to Camp by Teams, to which comes the absolute Necessity to have allways a good number of Teams in Camp to be ready for any Service, which often are necessary to be executed instantly. All our Teams which have Served the whole Campaign, are in such a Worn out Situation, that it is impossible to have the above Work performed with them; besides, all our Continental horses will absolutely be lost, if continued in this Service Duty; besides, we have not enough to perform all the Services at present. His Excellency General Washington, having ordered me to apply to your Excellency for the following immediate Supply of 150 Waggons, with 4 horses, for the Forrage Master General Department, and 130 for the Quarter Master Generals. All those Waggons could be loaded in their different Countys with Forrage, not to come empty up to Camp,—as for instance, those in Bucks County to apply for loading to Coll° Mark Bird, In Northampton County to Col° Hooper, in Lancaster to Georg Ross, Esq., and in the other Countys to the Comissarys appointed by this State. All will be paid for the forrage they collect by Col° Biddle. All

these Waggons to proceed directly to Camp, and there to remain till released by an equal number. Your Excell. will be pleased to assist the Army as soon as possible with the above requested number of Teams, as we are in the greatest need of them, and in Case of Emergency Cannot remove to or from the Enemy without them.

I have the honor to be, with great Respect,

Your Excel. most obd^{t} hbl. Servt.

J. H. LUTTERLOH,*

Col. & Dep. Quar. Mast. General.

Valley Forge, Jan'y 28, 1778.

John Harris to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Paxton, Jan'ry 29th, 1778.

Sir,

The Bearer, Collonel William McEleary, is an honest man, & a true friend to the Glorious cause of Liberty, Going down for Aid to Defend our Frontiers ag^{t} the Encroachments of the Savages. I am of Oppinion, that the Indians will take an active part next Spring, (for or ag^{t} us) as their Young men dont understand Acting as Neutrals in time of Warr, and unless they, the Western Indians, Delivers up Hostages to the United States Immediately, or sends a Number of their Warriors to our Camp to Join us, we may Depend on an Indian Warr takeing place ag^{t} us, & Ought to prepare for it as well as our present Circumstances will admitt, a Defensive Warr ag^{t} Savages will never doe the needfull.

However prudent & necessary it may be to Grant assistance to several parts of the frontiers, &c., at particular times, and when we are assured that a General Indian Warr will take place, we must attack them in their Own Country, (at all hazards.) If a French Warr takes place, I hope we may be eased of an Indian Warr, which will be a Great Mercy. I make free to Give your honor my sentiments of the times, & Concludes

Your honors most

obed^{t} humble Servant,

JOHN HARRIS.

Directed,

To the Honorable Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}., &c., at Lancaster.

Fav^{d} with Collo^{l} McAleary.

* See page 212. Also, Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 409.

Council to Wagon Masters, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, January 29, 1778.

Sir,

Application has been made to Council for a large number of Waggons for Service at the Camp, where they are greatly wanted. You are therefore hereby ordered immediately to procure and Send to Head Quarters — Waggons, with four horses, and a driver to each Waggon, directed to the care of Colonel Lutterloh, Deputy Quarter Master General.

It is ordered that these Waggons go to Camp loaded with forage. You are therefore to apply to Commissioners of Provisions and forage of your county, and obtain a load of forage accordingly. If money is wanted by the Commissioners for this purpose, they are to draw on Colonel Biddle for it. But if any of the Waggons can procure a load of forage near home, it is to be paid for by the Commissioners.

You may assure the people of your county, that the Waggons now called into Service will be relieved in due time, and for this & other purposes, you are hereby directed to make out and forward immediately the list of Waggons of your County, agreable to the Act of Assembly.

Lancaster Waggons to call on Col'l Ross for the forage.
Berks, do. on Col'l Mark Bird.
Northampton do. on Col'l Hooper.

In these there is aded directions to apply to these Gent. for the forage; But if, &c., as above, then the Commissioners are to draw on Col'l Biddle.

Letter from Mr. Atlee to his Brother, 1778.

Pray, my dear Brother, how comes it that Congress, by their resolve, relating to the two emissions of May, 1777, & April, 1778, have set the Country in such a ferment, & given room for a set of speculating People who are Enemys to the real good of their Country, to take occasion from it to depreciate the value of those two Emissions in the manner they have done, & *are* now daily doing.— Mr. Henry just now tells me that there are a set of them here very busy in this matter; that by their management within this Day or two it is rendered twenty five ℔ Ct. worse than the other Emissions, which God knows were sunk low enough before. The principal Hand here who busy themselves, he says, are Jn° Musser, Jn° Witmer, Balser Hertzer, & (to my surprize) Wirtz & Lowman; that they exchange it at twenty five ℔ Ct. discount, & wont take it in payment for any

* See page 210.

Articles without that allowance, & our Butchers, Bakers & Farmers begin to refuse it intirely, owing to the Story's propagated about it. Must people, who have this Money, either loose a fourth of it or starve? & when the time comes for exchanging it, must they spend half the value of the little they have in taking it to Philad^a^ to place it in the office? & after that wait sixty Days & attend a second time for payment? Indeed, I think the resolve is not one of the wisest, & wish to see these Evils speedily remedied. Mr. Henry tells me that Billy Wirtz returned here yesterday from Philad^a^, & reports that the Merchants, or rather Hucksters, of Philad^a^, are playing the same Game there. Surely, Congress can call in these or any other Emissions in a manner less injurious to the Country. I am so angry at this affair that I hardly know what I write, & so vexed at the daily schemes for depreciating of our Currency, that I sometimes think we dont deserve the liberty we have been contending for, while such miscreants are suffered to breath among us; & indeed, I cant help thinking that the Congress's own Servants, such as Quarter Masters, Commissarys of purchase, &c., do as much injury to it as any other speculators—for, the more they lay out or charge for articles which themselves have ingrossed, the more are their Commissions.

Lewis Nicola to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

S^r^,

When I left Trenton, Mr. Crispin not being there, I left an order with my wife for the rations due to me, she informs me that he told her, as he used to pay me by an order from the Pennsylvania Board of War, which no longer existed, he could not now, without an order from your Excellency, which I request you will desire Col. Matlack to send me.

Permit me to assure your Excellency that I am with respect,

S^r^, your most hum^le^ and

Obed^t^ Serv^t^.

LEWIS NICOLA.

Easton, Jan. 30th, 1778.

Directed,

To his Excellency, Thomas Wharton, President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Board of War to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

War Office, 30th Jan'y, 1778.

Sir,

By directien of the Board of War, I transmit your Excellency, their recommendation in favour of Ensign Russell, who was wounded at the Brandiwine just at the time he was on the point of promotion. The Board beg leave to interest themselves in behalf of this young man, who, by all accounts behaved well, and is highly deserving Notice. It is out of their power to do any thing more than recommend, as the appointments lie with the States to which the Officers respectively belong, As Mr. Russell, by the loss of his Leg, is render'd incapable of further field Duty, the Board are of opinion he may, with a great deal of propriety, be excepted from the general recommendation of Congress to the several States, to refrain from appointing officers in their respective battalions. The whole is, with the greatest submission, referr'd to your Excellency & Council.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellencys most

ob^{t} hum. Serv^{t}.

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

At a Board of War, y^{e} 20th January, 1778,

Order'd,

That the case of Ensign Russel be recommended to the Government of the State of Pennsilvania, who are requested to allow him the pay of a wounded Lieutenant, as he would have been promoted to that Rank in the common course of Service, had he not met with the misfortune of losing his Leg, which should rather accelerate than retard his promotion or Interest.

By Order of the Board,

JOSEPH NOURSE, D. S.

Gen. Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Jan^{y} 30th, 1778.

Sir,

This day a Letter from Gen^{l} Washington to the Board of War was before Congress, respecting their detention of the British Officers and Waggons,* of which he disapproved, as it was a measure

* See page 216.

stipulated betwixt him & Gen^{l} Howe; nor does he disapprove the number of men in the escort, although it exceeds the stipulation, as he thinks they were as few as might be expected on the occasion, therefore they are ordered to proceed w^{h} their charge. The Letter was returned to the Board of War with Instructions to enquire into the Conduct of the escort in our State, and I suppose you will be applied to. This brought on some debate and a Resolution approving your conduct, but as it did not touch the main point the indecent interference of the two Members of Congress, they being absent, the plaudit was at least suspended by the previous question. However the sense of the House was very appearant, particularly respecting your proceedure against the three Waggoners, who it was hoped would be brought to condign punishment, and it was the earnest desire to the delegates of this State, that you should be acquainted therewith, therefore I am so particular in this relation, although I think it unnecessary. Our State opposed the Resolution, informing Congress we sought no Compliment but justice. I hope you will not forget to furnish me with a copy of the Letter found on the Serjeant. I must not omit mentioning that your Letter on the subject did the State great honor, and extorted a compliment from a quarter least expected, and the President desired me to allow him to take a Copy. While I write, much interrupted by Congress, I am informed that you have taken up seven retailers of Counterfeit money, this opp^{y} I hope will not be omitted to do justice to our injured cause, which at the same time will strongly mark the propriety of Congress in the late Resolves requiring the payment of all provisions either in kind or in gold and silver.

I am respectfully,

Sir,

Y^{r} most ob^{t} hum'le Serv't,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

York Town,
Dan^{l} Roberdeau.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, Jan^{y} 30th, 1778.

A letter of the 26th, from General Washington, directed to General Gates,

Ordered, That the same be returned to the Board of War. That

the Board be directed to enquire minutely into the number & Rank of the Commissioned & non-Commissioned Officers, who have come out of Philada. with Cloathing for the Prisoners taken from the Enemy; and into the conduct of all the persons who compose the Escort, whilst they have been on the Route; and that they report specially to Congress, the result of their enquiry.

(Copy.) Extract from the minutes,
CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Jan^{y} 31st, 1778.

Sir,

Enclosed you have an Order of Congress, directing the Board to collect the Facts, relative to the Conduct of the Party who attended the Cloathing intended for the British prisoners, and who were stopped at Lancaster, in Pursuance of the Directions of Congress to the Board, as many circumstances appeared against them. But as it was left to His Excellency General Washington's further Directions, and it turns out that they had Passports from him, these Passports ought to be religiously adhered to, unless the Party has violated their Faith, by behaving improperly, which are Circumstances the General could not be informed of, & he has therefore directed them to be discharged. The Cloathing was seized because express Information was given that General Howe had refused to suffer us to purchase Cloathing for our Prisoners in Philadelphia—but General Washington is of opinion that he has taken a sufficient Mode of retaliating this Piece of Cruelty, by ordering Provisions not to be purchased among us, until General Howe becomes more just. I am to request the Favour of you to collect all the evidences with regard to this matter, as far as relates to the Proceedings of the Officers & Party, and send the Proofs to this Board in Pursuance of the Resolve of Congress, that if any thing has been done by them not Justifiable by the rules of War, the General may be informed of it, for his future Government, as to any Dispute which may arise on the part of the Enemy on the Subject.

I am, Sir,
Your Excellency's
most obedient
Humble Servant,
HORATIO GATES,
President.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}, Esq^{r}.

* See page 200, 201, 206.

Deposition of George Stewart, 1778.

Lancaster, January 31st, 1778.

Before me William Henry, Esquire, one of the Justices of the peace of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, personally came George Stewart, Esq., Lieutenant Colonel in the militia of Lancaster County aforesaid, who being duly sworn on the holy evangelists of Almighty God; doth depose and say—That yesterday evening after night, a son of Humphrey Fullertons' came to house of this deponent and told him that there were two british soldiers who said they belonged to the british light horse at his fathers house. That they had insulted Mrs. Fullerton his aunt, who had sent him (her nephew) for this deponent. That he this deponent immediately took his gun and went over to Mrs. Fullerton's about a mile from the great road where he found the two soldiers, and upon examining them found they were two Serjeants who had come up with a flag to Lancaster, and had left Lancaster with the flag to return to Philadelphia.

That he there learnt from Mrs. Fullerton, that when they came there they said they belonged to the british light horse, that she asked them what they wanted, and why they came there, to which they answered that she "should know by and by," and asked her for some whiskey and after that for cyder. That one of them putting his hand on her shoulder, desired her not to be afraid, but to sit down with them. That a Miss Johnston happening to be at the house, was about going home, when they desired her not to hurry, but wait a little, and they would go with her. This deponent asked them how they came to leave the flag and go so far out of their way; to which they answered that they did not expect to find any persons in that part of the country who would interrupt them. That this deponent was informed they had proceeded with the flag as far as the Sign of the hat, and then returned back on the road towards Lancaster to one Pinkertons where they bought a couple of fowls. That they again returned to the hat, and afterwards as they themselves informed him, went off a considerable distance to the right of the road, and were at several farms before they came to Fullertons. The deponent says when he took them, they acknowledged they had done wrong in leaving the flag and deserved to be looked on as prisoners, and hoped he would treat them mercifully. That one of them told him that the other who is a Scotchman had said he had a correspondent in that part of the country, whom he wanted to see but upon speaking to the Scotchman, about that matter he denied his having any corespondent there—And after that the Irishman took the deponent aside and told him he intended to desert, and further saith not.

Sworn and subscribed before me } GEORGE STEWART, L. C.

WILLIAM HENRY.

A true Copy.

James Young to T. Matlack, Esq., 1778.

Easton, 31st Jan'y, 1778.

Sir,

Since I wrote you last of the 25th Inst., Colonel Hooper is return'd here from Congress, he informed me that he has full Power to impress Waggons as usual, notwithstanding the late act of Assembly, I requested to see his authority, a copy of which I hereby inclose you which I beg you will lay before Council, I also request you will acquaint Council that a considerable quantity of Cloathing has been collected in this County, in consequence of the ordinance of Council, of the 8th Nov'r last, and Deliver'd into the care of Mr. Levers, till further orders from Council to whom they are to be deliver'd & by whom they are to be paid for; What directions Council may give, I beg you may acquaint Mr. Levers with, being very

Respectfully

Sir,

your very obed^{t}

humble Serv^{t}

JAS. YOUNG.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

☞ Post.

Joseph Reed to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp at Valley Forge, Feb^{y} 1, 1778.

Dear Sir,

The Expectation of seeing you at Lancaster has prevented my continuing our Autumn Correspondence. I am now attending the Committee of Congress for the Reform & Re-establishment of the Army; an Herculean Work, I do assure you, in which Difficulties daily occur, tho' I hope not insurmountable. It would be much beyond the Limits of a Letter to enumerate them, & indeed in Matters of general Concern it would be fruitless, for a general Evil can only be cured by a general Remedy. But there are some Events so immediately interesting to this State, & within the Reach of its Assistance, that I think it my Duty to mention them. The Inter-

course between the Country & the Town has produced all the Consequences foreseen by many in the beginning of the Winter,—The Supply of Provisions to recruit and refresh our Enemies; I count the least pernicious. The Minds of the Inhabitants are seduced, their Principles tainted, & opposition enfeebled; a familiarity with the Enemy lessens their Abhorrence of them & their Measures — even good Whigs begin to think Peace at some Expence desirable The Currency for 20 miles round the Town stagnates; the Hope of getting to Market with their Produce induces them to keep it back, & deny they have it. The Hope of checking it by continental Troops I give over, they are so few in Number, stand so much in Neid of Refreshment, & those upon the Duty have in many instances proved so corruptible that we should delude ourselves if we depended upon their Exertions. There needs no stronger Proof of this than that the Intercourse on this side the Schuylkill, tho' on acc[t] of the River more easy of Interruption, is the greatest. I see plainly, that unless it is committed wholly to the Militia, nothing effectual can be done. I doubt not there will be many Abuses, but, in my Judgment, no partial Evil arising from them is to be compared to the extensive mischief of the present Mode. I think too, it would receive a Check, if by Proclamation it was notified to the Inhabitants that under some severe Penalty they should not go into the City on any Pretence whatever, without Leave obtained from the Lieu[ts] of the County or his Deputies; this Indulgence to be granted to no Men on any Pretext who had not taken the Oath to the State; & when Women made application they must act according to their Discretion. Another Check in this Case would be, that all Papers or Permits should be printed with Blanks for the Name, & to be delivered up to the Guard when they have passed. Infantry alone I fear would not be equal to the Duty; but this might be soon remedied, as I am sure there are a Number of young Fellows of Reputation that would soon form a Corps to act in Conjunction with the Foot. The Enemy have form'd a Corps of Country Light Horse, under one Jacob James, that has already been very mischievous, & will be more so. No Person conspicuous in civil and military Life not with the Army, or at a great Distance, will be safe, if some Body of the same kind is not soon raised for the Protection of its Citizens. Horse & Foot should act together to be efficacious, & you may depend upon it, the Continental Horse & Foot Militia will not harmonize. That you will come into it after some Time I have no Doubt, but if you delay it I have no Doubt in the Course of this Spring you will lose some of your best Citizens. This has been the Case in Jersey, where some of their members of the Legislature are now languishing in the Gaols of New York. Fifty, with a proportion of good Officers, will be quite sufficient. I have not been able to think of any new Regulations for the Militia which are practicable in our present Situation; the System in the main is a good one. Defects, in my opinion, do not proceed so much from

the Plan (except the Choice of Officers) as from the Want of competent Persons to execute it. While our State is the Seat of War, & I fear it will be so for some Time, the Militia will be called for frequently & largely; it improves, I think, every Day, & I am persuaded will in Time be as good as any of its neighbours. You must not judge of it altogether by the Report of Continental Officers; it is fashionable to blame them, & it is sometimes carried to a blameable length.

The State of our Army in respect to the Force & Numbers has kept us much employed. It appeared to me highly reasonable that the Quota of this State, fixed before there was any Invasion & with the Capital in our Possession, should now be lowered, & I have got it reduced from 12 to 10 in our Estimate. I should have got it to 8, if in the Correspondence with the General the Idea of keeping up the whole number had not been preserved. I intended to have gone farther into this as well as some other Matters, if the Gentleman who is to be the Bearer of this Letter did not press me to finish. But I cannot close without suggesting to your Consideration the Necessity of forming some Plan of executing the Law for Supply of Provisions. It appears clearly to me that, however well intended, the Law will have no Effect if two Persons are to execute it for a whole County. I have thought sometimes a Revival of Committees will have a very good Effect—to some Purposes I am sure it will—but it may be perverted from its Design.

It is in vain to look for any attempt upon the City, under the most favourable Circumstances in other Respects, if Provisions are not procured. We are assured that the Army have not now, nor ever had more than 4 days stock before hand for their present numbers. You will easily judge the Consequence of bringing a great Body together under present Prospect.

I must conclude, or my Paper will not give me Room to say with what Respect & Regard

I am Dr Sir,

Your obed. Hble. Serv.

JOS. REED.

Indorsed.—From Hon. Joseph Reed, Esq., rec'd Feb. 4, 1778.

Col. Clem. Biddle to ———, 1778.

Uwchland, 2d Febry, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I received your favour 30th Jany, I shall, with Colonel Lutterloh, write to James Young, Esquire, waggon master General, relative to the waggons, & in the mean time request the favour of you to hasten any orders that may be necessary to forward them, as we

shall suffer if not speedily supplied. We have adopted the rates of hire as fixed by this state. I pay all waggons in the Forage Department, 30s. ℔ day, & find them in Rations & Forage; I allow them a reasonable time for returning home, & believe they will be satisfied; any other mode you recommend I will pay the utmost attention to.

Since I wrote you last, the Schuylkil has been so high, as to prevent my sending the waggons to Mr. Emlen's but I shall not omit it when they can pass.

I am very respectfully,

Sir, your mo. Obed. Servt,

CLEMENT BIDDLE.

The Examination of Henry Mansin,

taken y^e^ 2^d^ Feby, 1778, and subscribed before me, W. Henry.

Says he is a Prussian, born at Pruse menin—left Prussia about eight years agoe, & went to London—staid there about two years, and came to Philadelphia from London—lived about a year in Philadelphia with Peter Meerkin, a sugar Baker—went from Philad^a^ to Jamaica, and from thence to North Carolina, where he traded on the Catawba River—lived about a year and a half there, till the disturbances happened there, and after the rising of the People at Ninety-six, went with Jn^o^. Stuart, Superintendant of Indian affairs, to Augustine. At Augustine he got a Commission as Captain of a Company of Rangers in the King of England's service—held that Commission abo^t^ six months & then sold it to one James Johnston—went from thence in company with Commissary McIntosh to Pensacola, where he lived with & did business for M^r^. Superintendant Stuart—staid there about three Months and then came round in the Phœnix man of war to New York—arrived at New York in August, 1777—about six weeks after his arrival at New York he received a Commission from Gen^l^. Howe as Lieutenant of a Company of y^e^ Queen's Rangers, of which Samuel Anderson (late of y^e^ Eastern Shore Maryland,) is Captain, in Colonel Atkins's Battalion—came with Gen^l^. Howe to the head of Cheasapeake, & marched with him to Philad^a^.—that he is still a Lieutenant in that Battalion, & hath left his Commission in Philad^a^.—that about six weeks agoe in Philadelphia, he got acquainted there with one Englehart Holtsinger—that being at Gen^l^. Howe's head quarters, on business with Gen^l^. Howe & Major Balfour, the said Englehart Holtsinger came in & in the course of Conversation mentioned that he lived in Lancaster County, a few miles from Lancaster—That the major asked Holtsinger if he could not get some good sprightly horses in that part of the Country—that Holtsinger told him he could, & it was then proposed &

agreed that this Examinant & Holtsinger should set off on that business—that two days after that they set off, having received instructions from Major Balfour to purchase Horses in this part of the Country, but not to go higher than sixteen guineas for fine spirited Horses—those which they got from the Friends of Government they were to pay for, but if they found any that would suit among the Rebels they were to take them at any rate & they should be paid for them—that they came by Chester & Darby, & stopt at John Rine's, & staid there an Hour or two & then went to George Rine's, from whence Holtsinger went home—That the next day he went to Holtsinger's in company with Michael Rine, a son of George Rine—that Holtsinger returned with him to John Rine's and John Rine went with him, this examinant, to buy a Horse from Oberley, a Brother in law of said John Rine's—that John Rine knew the examinant's Business, & that the Horse was to be purchased for Gen^{l}. Howe's use—That John Rine sold the same to Oberley, who sold him, this Examinant, the Horse for £100 Congress Money, on which John Rine then engaged to pay him in eight Days' time—that he took the Horse with & put him in John Rine's stable—That the next Day he, this Examinant, & Englehardt Holtsinger & Wendle Meyer went together to one, George Bare's, about two Miles from Rine's Mill, to buy a Horse of him—that he bought a horse of said Bare for twenty-five Pounds hard money, of which he (the Exam^{t}) paid him £7 5 0 in Silver & Gold—& next day sent him by John Meyer (Wendle's Brother) as much more hard Money as made up £16 5 0 & the rest he was to send by Holtsinger—& John Meyer brought him the Horse—that John Meyer knew the Horse was for the Enemy's use—that the Day following, in the afternoon, he, this Examinant, with Englehart Holtsinger, Wendle Meyer & Joseph Bower, sett off from John Rine's for Philad^{a}.—went by the Gap & Darby—called at Welsh's Tavern, who knew they were going to Philad^{a}., & got to Philad^{a}. the day after—when they came to Schuylkill they came up with two Men, who said they lived in Lancaster County and had one of the Hessian Prisoners (a Yager) with them—whom they said they had brought from Lancaster County, & whom they left with the Hessian Guard at Schuylkill—that the Name of one of those Men is, he thinks, Abraham Bare, & the other Abraham Longenecker—that they all went in together to Philad^{a}., & stopt at the sign of the King of Prussia, in Market street—& from thence went to the sign of the Golden Swann in Third street, where they all lodged—they were all together at John Wistar's, where John & they conversed on these matters & about Wistar's Friends in this part of the Country—That Wendle Meyer rode one of the Horses down—& staid in Philad^{a}. 2 or 3 Days & then returned home—That Bower, he understood, inlisted in Philad^{a}. in the light Horse, & Longenecker, he heard, staid & drove a Team there—That in about eight Days after, that is about two weeks agoe, this Examinant & Holtsinger set off again to purchase & get Horses, & Bare

came with them, having fresh orders from Major Balfour—That they all came together to George Rine's—from whence Bare went home, which he said was about eleven miles from Rine's—& Holtsinger went home—Examinant staid at Rine's all Night—told Rine he was come up again to buy Horses for Gen[l]. Howe—that Rine offered to sell him some, & went with him to the stables, but had none that suited—That the next morning he went to Holtsinger's, who went with him to Vincent Meyer's & bought a Horse from s[d] Meyer's son for £12 0 0, hard money, which Holtsinger was to pay him in about 8 Days or a fortnight—went from thence to Conrad Holtsinger's, where Englehardt lived, & put the Horse in his Stable—that Conrad Holtsinger knew that the Examinant had bought this Horse for the Enemy, & was up here on that Business—That the Day following Englehart Holtsinger & Exam[t]. went to the Widow Yunty's & bought a Horse from her for £20 0 0, hard money, which Englehart Holtsinger engaged to pay her in a fortnight—that he took this Horse to Conrad Holtsinger's & put him in his Stables with the other—that the same Evening he took the Horses from Holtsinger's, & Englehart Holtsinger & he went together with the Horses to John Rine's, & put them in his stables—that Joseph Rode & Adam Rode were then there & knew the business that the Examinant was upon, & one of them, to wit: Adam Rode, was to have gone with him to Philad[a]—that Eng[t] Holtsinger & Exam[t]. supped together at John Rine's, after supper Holtsinger went off, telling the Exam[t] to go on his Journey, & wait for him about half a Mile off & he would come to him—That Exam[t] & Adam Rode & Joseph Rode, accordingly set off, taking the Horses which he had purchased with them, & waited at the place appointed—That in about a Quarter of an Hour after they got to the place, Englehart Holtsinger came to them, bringing with him a Bay mare, which he said he got in New Holland from Valentine Kinzer, that he had broke open the stable door & took her out—that Holtsinger had before prepared an Instrument to break open the stable door, & when he went from Rine's told the Exam[t] he was going to get that Mare, for that Kinzer was a Whig & he would take her—That after that, the same night, Englehardt Holtsinger & Joseph Rode left this Examinant again, waiting in the same place, & went away for more Horses, and returned again in about half an hour, & brought with them two horses which they said they had taken out of the stable of one Martin, who they said was a Whig—a Captain in the Militia—That after that Adam Rode went home, and this Examinant, Eng[t] Holtsinger & Joseph Rode proceeded on with the four Horses & the Mare for Philadelphia—that that Night they reached Hershberger's, in Chester County, where they staid all Night, & put up their horses—that Holtsinger & Hershberger had a good deal of private conversation, but he don't know that Hershberger knew their Business—That the next day they went to Welsh's Tavern, arrived there about twelve o'clock—had their Horses put up—& about one o'clock were appre-

hended by Val. Kinzer & his Brother—that Welsh knew they were taking the Horses in for Gen^{l}. Howe—That the Barc who he saw at Schuylkill with the Hessian, told him he lived between Reems' Town & Dunkertown, a tall young fellow and a little pock marked.

HENRY MANSIN.

The Examination of Joseph Rode, 1778.

The 2d Feb^{y}, 1778.

Taken and subscribed before W. Henry.

Says, that on Wednesday last he, this Examinant, and his Brother, Hans Adam Rode, were at work at John Rine's, of Earl township. That a certain Henry Mansin was there. That Mansin told he came out of Philadelphia, and that Mansin & John Rine used much persuasion with this Examinant & his Brother to induce them to go to General Howe, in Philadelphia, telling them they shou'd each have fifty acres of land if they did. That they consented at length to go, and being the next Evening again at John Rines, the said Henry Mansin and Englehart Holtsinger went from John Rines, with an intention as they said, to take Valentine Kinzer's Mare. That this Examinant & his Brother then went home to get necessary's for their Journey, & returned to Rines again in about an hour, and when they returned they saw Kinzer's Mare tied to the Fence at Rines door, and the said Mansin & Holtsinger were in the House. That after that, the same night, this Examinant & Henry Mansin went from John Lines to Alexander Martin's with intent to take some of his horses, particularly two of them, a Sorrel & a Chesnut, which Rine had described to them, & Rine told them in what part of the stable they stood. That when they came to Alex. Martin's Stables they were shut but not locked, that Mansin opened the door of the Stable and went in and brought out the said two Horses, and he, this Examinant, mounting one of them & Mansin the other, they rode away to John Rines, and about twelve o'clock that night, he this Examinant, & the said Henry Mansin & Englehart Holtsinger, went off together on their Journey towards Philadelphia,—that his Brother, Hans Adam, went with them about a Mile & then left them & went home, & he, this Examinant, with Mansin & Holtsinger, proceeded on their Journey & stopt first at one Hershberger's, in Chester County, where they breakfasted the next Morning. That Hershberger asked which way they were going, & Mansin told him they were going to Newport. They then proceeded on to one Welch's Tavern, where they had put up their Horses, & were there apprehended by Valentine Kinzer & his Brother, who had pursued them.

That the said Mansin told him, this Examinant, that he (Mansin)

had some time before taken down to Philad[a] a Hessian who had lived with the Widow Yunty.

his
JOSEPH ⋈ RODE.
mark.

Joseph Longenecker, Son of Ab[m] Longenecker, near Bethel House.

Abraham Bare, preacher, Jn°. Bare's son, lives near Henry Millers.

The Examination of Wendle Meyer, 1778.

Taken 3d Feb[y], 1778.

And subscribed before W. Henry.

Says, that he has been once in Philadelphia since Gen[l] Howe had possession of it, it was about three weeks ago. That he had no particular Business there; that he staid there three Days; that a few Days before he went off for Philad[a], he got acquainted with Henry Mansin, who he met with at John Rines. That Mansin asked him to go to Philadelphia with him, & after some conversation he consented, & they then agreed to meet on a certain day at Abraham Longenecker's, near Bethel House, that he went there according to appointment, found Mansin there, and two others, whose Names he dont remember, but was told they came from near Swatara. That he, the Examinant, Mansin, Joseph Longenecker, (son of Abraham Longenecker) and those other two men sett off from Longenecker's about seven o'clock in the Morning, went by the Gap, Chester & Darby, & reached Philad[a] the next morning (being Sunday morning) about 6 o'clock. That Abraham Longenecker knew they were going to Philad[a]. That they stoped in Market Street, at the sign of the King of Prussia, (at Gillman's.) That a barber being there some of them were shaved, & one of the Company (Mansin) had his hair cut; that this Exam[t] lodged at Gillman's, & after staying three Days in Philad[a] set off for home again, in Company with Henry Mansin and Abraham Bare (son of John Bare, preacher near Dunkertown.) That Longenecker's son and the other two whose Names he forgets, staid in Philadelphia. That he kept Company with Mansin & Bare as far as the Gap & then left them & went into Longenecker's, staid there that night and went home next morning. That he did not afterwards see Mansin till Saturday Morning last, as he and John Rine were on their way together to Philadelphia, when he met with him at Doe Run with some others, in Custody of Valentine Kinzer & his Brother, who understanding that the Examinant & John Rine were on their way to Philad[a] made prisoners of them likewise & brought them up to Lancaster. That

it was some time last week that John Rine & he agreed to go off to Philad^{a}. That they sett off on Friday night last, and had no particular business. That he heard some talk in Philad^{a}, among the Company he went with, about Jacob Barge & Cha^{s} Syng, & understood that it was owing to some representations of Mansin that Jacob Barge was confined there. Says that he took down no Hessian or other Prisoner of Warr with him, & don't know of any Person or Persons that did. Insists that he was but once in Philad^{a}, but being confronted with Jno. Godlip Metzgar, late Barr keeper to Adolph Gillman, who saw him twice there, he acknowledges that he has been twice in Philad^{a}, and was now going down the third time. That Bare did not go at any time into Philad^{a}, but he met with Bare in Philad^{a} near the Dutch Church. That John Rine told him that Mansin was buying Horses here for the use of Genl. Howe's army, acknowledges that while in Philad^{a} he & his companions freely spoke of the Americans as Rebels, &c.

Wendle Meyer.

Brig. General Lacey, to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Warwick, February 2d, 1778.

Sir,

My strength is reduced so low that I am under the Necessaty of Collecting the small remains into One Body, as it is impossable to do any service in the Weak and scattered Condition. I had them posted, two thirds of their times were taken up in hunting Provisions, which the Detached parties had always to Procure for themselves, being at too Grate a distance to be supplied by the Commissary.

Inclosed, I send you a Return of my Numbers, and when their times Expires. None of the Classes, either from Northampton, Cumberland, York, or Northumberland, has yet arrived at Camp. I am assured by several People from Northampton, that the Lieu^{ts} of that County has not rece^{d} their Instructions for calling them out, which induces me to believe the Orders from your Excellency has been miscarried.

Two Horse Onely has Joined me from Philadelphia and Bucks, though I hear more is making Ready.

The Enemy has made several Manœuvres, as if they were coming out with large Forraging parties, but advance no further than Frankford. Seven Deserters from them came to me Last Week—two Hessians, the Others British Soldiers.

I have appointed Lieu't David Forst my Brigade Major, and beg your Excellency will please to forward him a Commission by this Express.

I would be glad to know if any mode is Fixed to obtain the State Liquor, due the Militia, and what my duty is respecting it.

I remain sir,

you very humble servant,

JOHN LACEY, Jr.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jur., Esqr., Lancaster.

COLONEL WM. COATS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Bell Veaue, February 2nd, 1778.

Sir,

Since I left Lancaster I have been Busily employ'd in holding appeals, and Collecting of substitute moneys, and am now Ingaged in that searvis, and have the pleasure of informing you that I should be proud to receive your Orders for the payment of four or five thousand pounds, to any of the paymasters in this Quarter. The Paymaster for the County of Philad[a] is in distress for money to pay off several of the classes of Militia; he talks of being in arrears to the amount of Two thousand pounds. I yesterday see Mr. Eyre, one of the Navy Board, and he requested that I would Inform your Excellency that they were in Distress for money, and would be glad you would give me orders to pay them what money I can, which will be very agreeable to me, as it will save me the trouble of Bringing it the long road to Lancaster. I have the pleasure of informing the Council that our Bretheren, the Quakers in Philad[a] County, begin to alter their Conduct much—they now think it no Disgrace to apply for redress, and that in a publick manner, at the Court of Appeals. They have condescended to send a Deputation to wait on me from the Bibury Meeting, requesting that I would be as favourable as I could to their poor Distress'd Friends, so that I am in hopes, by the time the next Class is cal'd out, we shall see some of their Youths turn out in Defence of their Country.

I have the Honour to Remain

your Excellency's most

Obedient Humble Servant,

WM. COATS.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton.

* See page 168.

William Lyon to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, February 2nd, 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 20th Novr Last, wherein you acknowledge the Receipt of mine of October, would have answered soon after I received it, but having had an opportunity, shortly afterwards, of Conversing some little with Mr Hoge, respecting the matters I then wrote you of, I took it for granted he would acquaint you of matters more fully than I could by Letter, when he return'd to Council.

As you, Sir, inform'd me in your last, that my Letter lay before Council, the matters therein set forth are, no doubt, considered and determined before now. I would just intimate to you, sir, that my Present Office has been attended with considerable loss of time and money, ever since I Possess'd it, which is not the case with the other offices granted by the House of Assembly.

You Sir, mention in yours of Novr, an Impropriety of my being appointed, by Council, a Magistrate on Recommendation of twenty Freeholders of this place. I see the Propriety of your Reasons, but had Procur'd the Certificate or Recommendation, and sent it under a cover of a Letter to his Excellency the President, before yours came to hand, otherwise would not have troubled Council with it. I find myself in much of a Difficulty often in Respect of Issuing Writs, Taking Special Bail, and Qualifying Persons in some cases, which my not being a Magistrate, occasions.

I would just beg leave to mention one thing, to wit, that we have but one Lawyer, that lives here, who Practices under the Present Constitution—he Issues all the Writs he can get the People to take from him, alleging that any Justice of the Peace may Issue them without paying any regard to the Prothonotary Seal, &c.; this seems to make some Confusion I would apprehend; I find it so at Court time, as such a thing has not hitherto been Practised either here or any place in the State that I ever heard of, would Intrate that the Hon'ble Council will please to take up the matter and make such order respecting that case as to them may appear Right.

I have procur'd a Seal for my office with the same device of the Seal of the Executive Council.

I am Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

WILLIAM LYON.

Directed.

To George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Favoured by Lt Col. Blyth.

Council to Col. Jno. Piper, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, February 2nd, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 20th* of last month, a petition from divers inhabitants of your County, and a representation of the situation of your County, signed by Lieut. Coll. Hugh Davidson, have all been laid before the Council.

The Council is much surprised to find, that you have gone into the enlistment of men for nine months, as they cannot conceive how it is possible for the order of the 9th of December, to be construed to give you any authority for so doing. They intended to authorise you to call out the Militia of your County for the immediate defence of the inhabitants, as a temporary measure, until Congress could obtain the necessary information, from which, to form a judgment of what force would be wanted to oppose those savages, and to take effectual steps at the Continental expence as hath been done in the Southern States, for chastising them, for which purpose a committee of Congress is gone to the westward. As it was expected that the people of your County would more cheefully exert themselves in their own immediate defence, and more willingly turn out in this service, than in one more distant from home, they were not called to meet and oppose the army of the British King, but were permitted to remain at home, while the Militia of most of the other Counties have been called out, and in many of them the whole eight classes have been called, and have either served their turns, found substitutes, or become liable to pay the hire of substitutes. Of this money, considerable sums are already paid in, and the remainder is collecting from the delinquents. There does not appear any good reason why the people of your county should not exert their strength in their own defence, at such a critical time as this, on the same terms that the other parts of the State render their services.

The Militia of almost every state in America has been called into the field, and in many places rendered very important services and gained great honour.

Our Militia law, points out the mode of calling the people together for their defence, this Council has no authority to adopt any other plan, or establish an army, however small, on any other principles than what the law has directed: And indeed the confederation proposed by Congress, is directly against the establishing of a standing force of any kind different from the Militia. But, were it otherwise, the enlisting of men for nine months appears to be wholly improper and unnecessary. It is very improper as there is no fund for the payment of them, and it would be a most dangerous example to the other Counties, who would each have equal right to claim an exemption from Militia service; and unnecessary, as the Militia, by a proper

* See page 194.

exertion, is certainly able to defend themselves against a much more formidable enemy than is, at present, reasonably expected to come against the western frontiers. As to the price at which it is proposed to pay the men, this alone is a sufficient reason against the measure, as the same pay would undoubtedly be immediately claimed by the Militia of the other Counties, and perhaps occasion an uneasiness in the regular army, which might produce fatal consequences, from these circumstances alone there cannot be a doubt but that Congress would disapprove of it, and refuse to pay such advanced wages.

The order of the ninth of December still subsists in full force, and it is all that the Council have power to do for you.

Coll. Davison has an order on the Treasurer for the sum of two hundred pounds to be delivered by him to you, and to be charged by the Treasurer to your account*

Directed,

John Piper, Lieut, Bedford.

Gen'l Armstrong to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, 2d April, 1778.
(Intended to be Feb'y. T. M.)

Dear Sir,

Having since my return to this place had so very little intelligence from York, am therefore ignorant of the preparatives of Congress relative to the apparent business of the Spring, but confess my uneasiness under the apprehensions either of the Lethargick or delusive kind, having seized both Congress and the several States respecting the degree of Military strength which may be sooner requisite than we are aware. This inference I draw from universal silence & inactivity in regard of adding any farther strength to the Continental Army. Some may think it large enough, but may too late be convinced of their mistake. Other States may slumber with comparative safety, but Pennsylvania, whilst two large armys prey upon her vitals, without the aid of Commerce, her tilage & manufactures greatly curtailed, by drawing so many of her Militia to the field, how soon must she be exhausted?

These circumstances in my opinion opened a natural door for a warm memorial to Congress at our last session of Assembly. That the sister States might exert themselves at this peculiar crisis, &c. In so doing policy too would at least keep equal pace with humanity or the social principle, as that State who fights a decisive battle at a convenient distance, is a double gainer.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 411.

I am much concerned at the publick clamour rais'd agst Gen' Potter, respecting his discipline in the close of the Campaign, I'm persuaded the case is not fully stated on both sides and hope that time & farther reflexion will remove these ill timed prejudices and mistakes.

I am, Sir, with great respect,
Your Most humb' Serv't
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

His Excellency Tho's Wharton, Esqr., Lancaster.

Favour'd by Coll. Blythe.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, Feb'y 3 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Law of this State for the better supply of the army, has been forwarded to the Commissioners named therein, and we have the pleasure to assure the Congress, thro' you, that there appears a cheerful readiness in many of the Counties to send in supplies; in some Counties there appears to be even an earnest zeal in the people to forward this business, and divers applications have been made to Council by the Commissioners, requesting orders to purchase, and the money to pay for provisions. A Commissioner of this County, having heard of his appointment, immediately procured near an hundred head of Cattle and a large quantity of wheat; but he is now, and has been for several days past, at a stand for want of orders and money. And we are well assured from Northampton County, that the people of that County are offering their wheat to the Commissioners and earnestly pressing to have it received into the publick stores.

If Congress shall think it proper to give orders for the purchase and put money into the hands of the Commissioners to pay for provisions there does not remain a doubt but that the Magazines proposed may be filled with great expedition, as the Commissioners named in the law can undoubtedly obtain the wheat from the people more readily and more with the people's consent, than the Commissaries of the army can do. And it ought to be represented to Congress, that now is the time for the purchasing and grinding of wheat, as the people are now threshing it out, and the waters are high enough to keep all our mills at work, which it is well known cannot be ex-

pected to continue long to be the case, for altho' some mills continue to grind thro' the Summer, there are many others, which must be expected to stand still as soon as the waters lower in the Spring.

If Congress chuse to depend on other men and other measures than our laws direct to collect the provisions of this State for the use of the Army, we hope that no blame will be hereafter laid on this State in consequence of any disappointment which may arise in any way in this important business.

I am Gentlemen,
with much respect
Your very Humble Servant
T. W., Jr., Presid^{t}.

Directed,
To Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

J. B. Smith to Vice President George Bryan, 1778.

York Town, Feb. 3^{d}, 1778.

Dr. Sir,

I wrote you a few days ago by . Nothing since has occurred worth your notice. The Assembly of Virginia has acceded to the Confederation. I do not think, however, they have treated the matter with form equal to its importance. Does it appear proper to raise so great a fabrick on the slender basis of a simple resolution of the two houses? Will not *legal consequences* follow from this confederation? I apprehend it would be not only proper, but that it would answer many valuable purposes if more form were used, at least if the articles were approved & acceded to by a law of each State solemnly enacted, & in which law perhaps it may be expedient to insert certain matters connected therewith. It is a question in this house, whether suits can be supported for the recovery of particular* moneys in the several States. What think you of this? This may be one object in the act I speak of.

Please to send the Inclosed to my good woman.

I am Dr. Sir,
with respect,
yr aff^{t} & m. h. s^{t},
J. B. S.

Have you any acco^{t} yet from Sammy?

Directed,
Honble George Bryan, Esq'r, Lancaster.

* Owing to the seal, a part of this word cannot be seen.

Deposition of James Christy, 1778.

Lancaster, ss.

James Christy, Esquire, Captn in the 3d Battn of Pensilvanian Troops, on his solem oath on the holy Gospel, deposeth & saith, that five days before the day on which the Enemy's horse surrounded Captain Lee & some few light horse, in a house sixteen miles west of Philadelphia, about three weeks since, a flag of Truce came out of Philadelphia, as this deponent understood & believes; that the flag was under the conduct of a British officer, called Captain Sandford, but who is said to be a Lieutenant in the British guards; that this flag of Truce was accompanied by Captain McLeod, said to be of the Enemys American Levies, Lieut Sterling, said to belong to the Royal Highlanders, & one German Commission officer, as this deponent understood him to be, together with a surgeon & two surgeon's mates, and divers non Commissioned officers & Waggon-drivers; This deponent was ordered by Colonel Stephenson, of Virginia, to join the flag Bearer and his Company at the sign of the Spread Eagle, on the great highway leading from Philadelphia to Lancaster, & that he understood from the British Officers above mentioned, or some of them, that they conducted & carried Clothing for the B. Prisoners in the Custody of the American States; that this deponent was with said Flag at the public house aforesaid, called the Spread Eagle, & afterwards on the way to the Tavern called the White Horse, till the fourth day; that Genl W., as this deponent understood, refused to suffer Capt McLeod & Lieut Stirling to proceed with Capt. Sandford, & that they two returned from the Spread Eagle for Philadelphia; that two Bags containing bills of Credit were discovered to be in a Waggon belonging to the party under Capt Sandford, & that being damaged by wet, the bags were opened & dried, & that orders were given by Col. Bradford, deputy Commissary of prisoners, to send the said paper money back; that said paper money was accordingly, as deponent believes, taken back by Capt McLeod & Lieut Sterling; that Lieut Sterling, with seeming surprize at said discovery, alledged that he was ignorant that the sd Baggs were in the waggons of said flag of Truce, or any of them; that this dept heard & understood among the British party attending said flag, that one Mr. Franks had ordered, or was supposed to have ordered the bags aforesd, to be put into one of the Waggons attending them; & that Col. Bradford said he had read a Letter from Mr. Franks, wherein mention was made of said paper money, & told this deponent that he, this deponent, had had a very costly pillow last night, this deponent having rested his head on said Bags or one of them, during the foregoing night.

Indorsed,

"1778, Feby. 3, deposition of James Christy, Esq., relating to the flag."

T. Matlack to Jas. Read, 1778.

Lancaster, 3d Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

It is reported here, that writs & process are not now issued for the County of Berks. This, perhaps has followed upon your Election into Assembly. The regular day for holding the courts of the county now approaches, & it is proper, that Council understand whether they have a Clerk of the peace, & a Cl'k of the pleas to attend there. I am desired to enquire of you how the matter stands, & to ask for the favour of an immediate answer:

being Sir,
your very
Obed^{t} Servant,
T. M.

Directed,
To James Read, Esquire, at Reading.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, y^{e} 4th Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that in compliance with the Resolution of Congress of the 15th January,* the Board have appointed several persons as ℔ the annexed List, to superintend the laying up of Magazines of Flour, & the purchasing of Cattle and salted meat, for the use of the Army. I am to request your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary Orders to the Commissioners to follow such Instructions as they may receive from the Superintendants, & to apply to them for money to enable them to carry the Act of the Legislature of this State into immediate execution.

I have the honor
to be your Excellencys
most h^{ble} Serv^{t},
JOSEPH NOURSE.

P. S. If Cattle can be purchased in the Counties more remote Money will be supplied on application to the Board.

* See page 177.

Superintendants appointed for the East Side of Susquehannah.

Rob't Lettis Hooper,
Jonathan Mifflin,
Nat'l Falkner.
} For Sussex in New Jersey, Northampton County, Berks, Bucks, & Philadelphia.

Rich'd Bache,
Col. John Patton late of the Con[l] Army,
Henry Hollingsworth,
James Read.
} For Lancaster, Chester, the Northern Parts of the Western Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of the same State, & the Delaware State.

For the West Side of Susquehannah,

General Ewing,
Capt. John Byers.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excell[y] Th. Wharton, jr., Gov[r] of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

COMM'R HAZELWOOD TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1778.

Trenton, Feb'y 4th, 1778.

Sir,

I have received from the Adj[t] Gen'l a letter, wherein he informs me it's Your Excellency's express orders, that I should send forward to Camp those few Troops Your Excellency was so kind to spare me for the use of our Fleet. I shall comply with the request as soon as possible. I expect our Pay Master in a few days, & as soon as we can pay them for the time they have been with us, they shall be march'd off immediately. I shall also send Your Excellency the Number of Men we have left in the Fleet,' as he in his Letter desires.

We are about getting our Fleet in readiness with all possible dispatch, but I shall not be able to Man above half of them. We had a great number of killed & wounded, & a great many Runaway since we have been in Winter Quarters, & from the weakness of our situation I fear we shall not be of that service I could wish. I am fully of opinion that if we could take possession of Billingsport, & Fortify it, that we might soon stop the Pass of the River again, for the Pass they made thro' Billingsport is not above One Hundred feet wide, & as to inner Channel it can easily be blocked up, & while ever we can hold Billingsport nothing can pass up or down the River.

I have sent Six Armed Boats down the River, Mann'd with some of the Inhabitants that can be depended on, & am in hopes they will be of use to annoy the enemy below. If Your Excellency could spare me those Men that we have now trained to the Galleys, it would be of great use in keeping the Boats from carrying in Provisions to the enemy, and keeping their Craft from coming up to ravage the Shores. Having not to add,

Am Your Excellency's most
Obed^{t} & very H'le Serv^{t}.

T. H.

(Copy.)
To his Excellency George Washington, Esq^{r}.

Thos. Savadge to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Pensylvania Salt Works, Feb'y 5, 1778.

S^{r},

Your letter of Jan'y 16th* I duly rec'd by the hands of Mr. Ja^{s}. Davidson. Com'dr Hazelwood does not think proper to furnish the men you are pleased to mention, therefore the same cause still subsists as ever has done since the Calling out of the Militia, and that prevents these Works being carried into execution, and I do not see any prospect of a remedy, altho' I had seven Journeys to the different Councils and Assembly, to get a law passed for the exemption of my people from the Militia, and with the greatest difficulty obtained it, and it is now entirely neglected; such men as Com'dr Hazelwood Could furnish are not the men I want, neither will I pretend to carry on the Works with such men. If Council thinks proper to furnish me with the men I wrote for, under the Sanction of the Act of Assembly obtained, I will exert every nerve in my power to Carry the Works into execution, otherwise if they do not think proper to furnish me with the men agreable thereto, so that I can Carry the Works on with reputation to myself, and the Benefit of the State, which has ever been my most ardent wish—I say, except I can have them under the Act, so as to have the Command of them, I must beg leave to inform Council that I cannot think of Carrying them on any longer, for it is only deceiveing the publick, myself and my family, and getting an ill name for what I have not deserved.

The appointment of Mr. Davidson, as an Agent here, Can be of no use to me or the Works, it will only be an additional expence on them, and which I must pay my Quota of, and have no use for such a person here; furnish me with proper men and I will take care for the rest.

I hope your Hon^{r} will excuse my writing thus freely, for I think

* See page 182.

agreable to my Contract I can have no Superintendent over me, but Council themselves or a Committee of them.

I shall do every thing in my power to forward the Works with the few hands I have, and hope Council will provoid me with men, in such manner as I can render my country service.

I have a load of Salt now in the drying house, but Cannot get a team to take it to Trent Town, or should have sent it two weeks ago; should be glad Council would inform me to whom the Salt must be sent to in future, it will not be proper to keep it here longer then is necessary for drying it.

I am, S^{r}, with all due respect,
Your Hon^{rs} most Obed^{t}
Humble Servant,
THOMAS SAVADGE.

N. B. There must be either land purchased or rights laid on Vacant lands for a supply of Wood, there being not moore then will last two or three months at most, Belonging to the Works.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thos. Wharton, Jun^{r}., Esq^{r}., President of the Hon'ble Council of the State for the State of Pensylvania.

℔ fav^{r} of James Davidson, Esq^{r}.

Timothy Pickering to T. Matlack, 1778.

York Town, Feb'y 6, 1778.

Sir,

Your favour of the 28th ult. came to hand yesterday. Governor Wharton informed me at Lancaster, that the votes of Congress were to remain there at present. He mentioned the box also which is marked with my name, but I forgot afterwards to give any direction about it. I must, therefore, request you will send it hither by the first good conveyance, to be left at the War Office, where I shall receive it. This will oblige

Your very h'ble Servant,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}., Secretary to the Council of Pensylvania, at Lancaster.

Council to Gen. Armstrong, 1778.

Lancaster, Feb'y 6, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter dated 2nd* April (intended Feb'y) is came to hand, and has been read in Council. It shews your laudable attention to the public interest and general safety.

A Committee of Congress is now with General Washington, in consultation upon the measures to be taken for opening and carrying on the campaign. We learn that they have lowered the quota of troops to be raised by this State to ten† Battalions, and General Washington is applied to, by Council, to appoint proper recruiting officers to fill up this number.

A descent into Canada, we understand, is determined on, and therefore, it is probable that no great additional force is to be expected from the Eastward.

Pennsylvania must suffer. It is not to be avoided. It only remains to make the suffering as light as possible.

Council entertain no jealousy of any impropriety in General Potter's conduct, and firmly expect that it will meet general approbation. It is not to be expected, that good discipline can be established without the complaints of those whose irregularities bring them under punishment.

Robert Galbraith to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

These will serve to inform your Excellency that upon my going to Bedford, I put the Warrant I obtain'd from the Council into the Hands of the Sheriff, who took Mr. Smith into Custody, upon which he delivered up the Records, Seals, &c[a]. Notwithstanding the Indian disturbances in the County, we had a pretty smart Court. The Grand Jury found several Bills, and a great many who were for some time past backward in taking the Oath came into Court and took it, so that I have the pleasure to inform you matters wear a good aspect now in Bedford, with regard to the Constitution.

There was a large Court at Carlisle and a prity clever one at York, and the good People in each of the Counties seem'd exceedingly well pleased with the proceedings.

I wou'd just mention to the Council, that George Stevenson, of Carlisle, (Attorney at Law,) has Issued Replevins, Ret'ble to last Term, in about a dozen of Instances, for goods levied upon by order of the Lieutenants of the County, for Fines assess'd on Delinquents in their Classes of the Militia. The Plaintiffs in Replevin alledge That

* See page 230. † See page 250.

they are excusable, some for being employed as Deputy Commissa^{r}, others for Voluntarily entring and driving their Waggons in the service, &c^{a}, and the Cause of Action accruing before the date of the Supplement to the Militia Law. The Issue of these Actions are impatiently waited for, as the Collecting of Fines in that County, much depend upon a determination in favor of the Lieutenants. As I am concerned for the Lieutenauts, I wou'd be glad of the advice of the Council in this matter, and whether there has been any determination in Cases similar to these I've mentioned. A few lines, to the care of W^{m}. Lyons, Esq^{r}., in Carlisle, by the Next Court may answer a good purpose. I wou'd also mention to the Council the Case of a certain William Montgomery, who was tried at York-Town the last Sessions for Misprision of Treason.* The matter came before the Court and Petty Jury, by presentment from the Grand Jury. The Petty Jury also found him guilty of Misprison of Treason. Mr. Smith, of York Town, and Mr. Stevenson, of Carlisle, who were both concerned for him, were going to move in arrest of Judgm^{t}, but rather than risque a motion of that kind with the Court, who were but young hands, and no president of a Conviction of the kind yet established to my knowledge, I thought it most prudent to have the Verdict of the Jury Recorded, and Montgomery sent back to prison, untill the opinion of the Council was had in the matter.

There were two evidences to convict him with the Petty Jury, that of Mrs. White, of York Town, and of Mr. John Wilson, late of Philad^{a}. His beheavour in Prison and after Tryal, I've been informed, has been very insolent.

As Time does not permit me to write to Mr. Serjant, I wou'd take it kind if he was informed that, as I have not yet got a Clerk, and Northumberland Court does not come the week after York Town—It is at present out of my power to attend Northumberland, the other Counties I can & will.

I wou'd be glad if Colonel Matlack wou'd send me ℔ first opportunity a Dozen of Tavern Licence, and Commission of Clerk of the Peace for Bedford County.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's and the Honble Council's

Most obed^{t} humble Serv^{t}.

ROBERT GALBRAITH.

Rock Creek, February 6, 1778.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}., Esq^{r}., &c^{a}., &c^{a}., &c^{a}., now at Lancaster.

* See page 62.

Council to Brig. Gen. Lacey, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, February 6, 1778.

Sir,

I rec[d] your Letter of the 2d* Inst., which inclosed a return of the Militia under your Command, and I am sorry to find the number so small. I however hope you will Shortly be reinforced so considerably as to make your Corps formidable, and enable you to render service to your Country by preventing the Enemy doing injury to the inhabitants, unless they come out in force.

It would be well for you to write to the Issuing Commissary to furnish you with Provisions regularly, so that your Men may be employed more advantageously than in collecting them, for notwithstanding the trouble or inconveniency of furnishing the Scouting parties therewith, yet it should be done if possible, for, if it is left to themselves to procure, I am much afraid irregularities will be committed and complaints exhibited by the inhabitants, that may employ more of your time to rectify than you will find leisure for.

Brigade Majors are not furnished with Commissions. It is customary, I believe, to establish their Rank by signifying it in General Orders.

The Paymasters of each County have generally paid the Men for their rations of Liquor, as it is not possible for us to furnish it.

I hope the Assembly, at their next Sitting, will put a Stop to a practice so expensive, and on many accounts very injurious.

I am, with respect, Sir,
your very hum. Serv[t].

Brig. Gen. John Lacey, Jun[r].

Circular of Council, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, February 6th, 1778.

Sir,

Congress having appointed Robert Lettis Hooper, jun[r], Jonathan Mifflin and Nathaniel Falconer, Superintendants of the Magazines, to be laid up for the use of the Continental army, in pursuance of

* See page 226.

the law of this State. You are therefore to apply to them, or either of them, for money and instructions, as occasion may require.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant.

Richard Bache, Col. John Patton, late of the Continental army, Henry Hollingsworth, James Read,	for Lancaster, Chester, the Northern parts of the Western Shore of Maryland, the Eastern shore of the same State, and the Delaware State.
General Ewing, Capt. John Byers,	for the West Side of Susquehanna.
Robert Lettis Hooper, jr. Jonathan Mifflin, Natthaniel Falconer,	Superintendants for Sussex in New Jersey, counties Northampton, Bucks, Berks and Philad[a].

Council to General Washington, 1778.

Lancaster, 7th Febru[y], 1778.

Sir,

Council had the honour to write to your Excell[y] on the 15th day* of last month, in the words of the inclosed Copy; & as the urgency of levying men to fill up the Penn[a] Batt[s], pressed on the spirits of the members, they wished to see officers for that purpose, appear. But after waiting some time, & finding none sent up, they have feared that their Letter had miscarried. However, as Gen[l] Wayne, when last here, was possessed of their plan of raising recruits, & promised to aid in finding the most suitable officers, they rested the business much on their Letter, & the Gen[l's] known Zeal and iudustry in promoting the public service. But they now apprehend that some accident has intervened, & at least delayed this necessary Business. They hope, that if it be not so, or that every thing is doing that can be expected, Y[r] Ex[y] will impute this renewal of their application, to a sense of the importance of the present moment.

By Capt[n] Moore.

Indorsed,

To His Excellency, General Washington.

* See page 180.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, Feb'y 7, 1778.

Gentlemen:

The late *Council of Safety*, appointed by General Assembly wrote to the Hn'ble Board of War, on the 17th of October last, and mentioned Mr Robert Lettis Hooper, and Mr John Biddle, in the quarter Master's line, as persons against whom complaint had been made.*

We understand that you have lately been called upon to show the evidence on which this charge, so far as relates to Mr Hooper, is founded, and that you had not been furnished with the facts which are alledged against him.

The People of the County of Northampton have been loud in their complaints against Mr Hooper; but as business of more consequence has been generally before this Council, it has not been attended to, perhaps, so fully as it ought to have been; nor the evidences collected with the necessary care. This Council have no personal pique against Mr Hooper; but in justice to the late Council of Safety the proofs which have been collected ought to be laid before the Board of War; And for this purpose, they are enclosed to you. By these you will see that Mr Hooper has made a practice of granting papers to persons travelling directly contrary to the laws of the State, which as deputy quarter Mr, he had no pretension of authority to do; and that he not only refused to take the oath of allegiance required by our laws, but used his influence to prevent others from taking it, which has doubtless been greatly injurious to the General cause of America, and to the County of Northampton in particular. What Mr Hooper's inducement to this may have been we are uninformed. We know of no objections made against this oath by any persons whatever, *but that* allegiance to the King of Great Britain is renounced and refused; allegiance to the CommonWealth of Pennsylvania as a *free & independent* state acknowledged; and an engagement to do nothing injurious to this *independence as established by Congress*, and to discover Conspiracies against this or any of the United States. These are *really* the objections made against this oath. The Gentlemen who have opposed the frame of Government, have made little objection to it: If it had been otherwise, Mr Hooper can have no pretension to found his objection on this ground—for he has made application to Council for office under the present Government, which was not granted, because men undoubtedly better qualified for it were willing to accept it.

Council have no wish to do the smallest injustice to Mr Hooper, and therefore send you the following paragraph of a letter, now before

* See Vol. V., p. 683.

them, from Robert Levers, Esq^r, viz: "With respect to M^r Hooper's "discouraging the inhabitants of this county to take the oath of "allegiance, it has been too general and too glaring to deny; and "with respect to passes, evidence thereof is before Council; But as "to partiality in pressing Waggons to the distress of Whigs and the "relief of tories, I believe the information is ill founded."

Perhaps it is not foreign to the present business to say, there is reason to apprehend that M^r Hooper may have taken some merit to himself from the Vigilance and activity of M^r Conrad Kreider, who was appointed Waggon M^r for Northampton county, and exerted himself in that office with great Zeal and industry.

Directed.

To the honorable, the delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Council to State Navy Board, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, Feb^y 7, 1778.

Gentlemen,

It has been suggested that it is practicable to annoy the enemy in the river below Philadelphia, with Barges, called Guard boats. A spirit of enterprise in this way has discovered itself in Capt. Barry & other officers in the Continental Navy, and other persons, particularly in the Delaware. This State promises considerable advantage to the adventurers as well as to the public. Application has been made to Council by Captain Dougherty and Mr. John Naghton requesting to be permitted to have two of the boats to fit out for this purpose. Their request would have been readily granted, but that Council waited to find Captain Barry's example inducing the officers & men of our fleet for a time specified. Their publick exertions, we would wish to encourage & reward, asking the use of those Barges on the same footing that others offer to take them—that is to say, to give security for the safe return of the boats, find men & victuals, & take all they get from the enemy, giving security, and acting under Commis^n as privateers. For if any benefit can arise from a plan of this kind, it ought to be to the officers and men who have signalized themselves in the time of danger. Council therefore direct you to permit as many of the Boats as may be spared to be fitted out immediately on the terms aforesaid by our officers or others.

For this purpose, Blank Commissions from Congress are now enclosed to you. They are to be filled up with the names of the Commanders of the Barges, but it may be convenient to term them Captains, because of the difficulty of finding suitable exchanges, in case of Capture. Skipper, Midshipman, Boatswain, Coxswain, have

been suggested. You will accomodate this with the Gentlemen, whose case we consult in this caution. They may at the same time wear what Titles they chuse.

Council suppose that your board will think it advisable before long to fit out 2 or 3 of the Gallies, to restrain the efforts of the Enemy up the Delaware. Farther instructions concerning the fleet will be given after the assembly meets.

Mr. Bradfords letter of the 24th of Jan^{y}, is received and the forgoing will be considered as a reply.

N. B. Bonds are to be given with security in the penal sum of 5000 Dollars, & the bonds sent to Council to be forwarded to Congress.

Directed,

To the Navy Board at Burlington.

Col. R. McCalester to President Wharton, 1778.

Feb'y 7th, 1778.

Sir,

Your orders of the 20th of Jan'y came to hand the 29th of s^{d} Month—I have Dispatched them to every Corner of the County—Giving the strictest orders to have the arms of the Militia Inspected into, and a Return of the Public arms made to me with as much speed as Posable, which shall Transmit to y^{r} Exelency on sight. Indeed this County will not Produce maney arms worth notice, as sometime Past they ware Mostly taken into the service.

I inclose a Certificate in fav'r of the Bearer Maj'r Joseph Lilley, who is on his way to Camp.

I am with Due Respect

Y^{r} Exelencies

Most ob^{t} H^{ble} Serv^{t},

RD. McCALESTER.

N. B. I have not as yet been able to get a Return of all the officers of this County of those that marched, alltho' Repeatedly at it, as soon as I can colect it, will Imediately send it to Council.

R. McC.

Directed,

His Exelency Tho^{s} Wharton, Esq., President of the Exc^{e} Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Fav'd by Maj'r Lilley.

James Read to Sec'y Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

At 3 o'clock this afternoon your Letter to me of the 3d Instant* came to hand, which I am sorry I did not receive sooner; as I fear you will not receive my answer in Time; there being no Person I know of going to Lancaster, However I shall, as soon as I close this Letter, enquire for, and perhaps (as the Road is much travelled) may find some body going that way.

Several Writs have issued returnable Tuesday next, and the People know that, on proper applications, they may have Writs; but, there not being a single attorney in our County who does Business, few apply. If any one comes to me, I, as a Friend, assist the Justice in issuing the Writ, of which he keeps a memorandum, and the Sheriff will make his Return. Who will then take up the Business on the Part of the Plaintiff is uncertain. If only one attorney should attend it would be of ill consequence. If he be for the Plaintiff a Judm^t will be obtained in almost every action, as few know how to appear for themselves; if for the Defendant, he will obtain a Non pross, and an Execution may issue against the the Plaintiff for Costs. Thus, till several Gentlemen of the law attend the Court, I think, seriously, the issuing Process will answer no good End. I proposed a Remedy for the Evil in the House of Assembly, but nothing was concluded on relative to my motion. The Business of the Common Pleas has not been retarded by my being a Member of Assembly. Mr. James Whitehead has, of late, acted as Clerk in Sessions, having been appointed on a Hint of the Hon'ble, the Vice-President, in a Letter to me for a pro Tempore appointment, and Business in Sessions has hitherto gone on. Some time since the Justices recommended me, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Henry Christ, Jun^r. I will bring with me that recommendation to Lancaster, the 18th Instant. I conceive a way may be fallen upon to remove the Impediments, so that the Business of our Courts may be put in a good Train. My sentiments on this important subject will be more proper for a conversation than communicable by letter, therefore, I shall give them freely & fully to you when I shall have the Pleasure of seeing you (as I shall shortly) at Lancaster. In the mean time I beg leave to assure you that I am, with much affection and esteem,

Sir,

your most humble serv^t

JAMES READ.

Reading, February the 7^th^, 1778, Saturday evening.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Supreme Executive Council, &c., at Lancaster.

By favor of John Morris, Esq^r.

* See page 234.

Commodore Hazelwood to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's two letters of the 24th Decr & 8th Janv,* & note the Contents. We have done every thing in our power for the safety of the Fleet & their Stores, & have been as carefull as we could to keep the People together, notwithstanding all, there is a number of them deserted. We have got the Cannon on board the Galleys again, & the Stores, & are making ready the Fleet as fast possible, & hope shall be able to proceed down the River in a few days, as there is no Ice now in it, & the weather pretty moderate, & I hope our People will be better satisfied, for I am teazed to death with one complaint or other, in particular for their pay.

I should have wrote to your Excellency long ago, but my perplexity with the People, & the short notice I have had of any opportunity going your way.

I am much obliged to your Excellency & Council's thought of the great expence I have been at, & hope your Excellency & Council will fix something for me that will be equal to it, for my pay only will not half support me in my station—I have sunk a great deal of money since I have been in the service.

I have received orders from General Washington to send to Camp all the Men that we received as a reinforcement from him when down at Fort Island. I have wrote him about it, & inclosed you have a copy of the letter wrote him,† but have not received any answer as yet. If we are to send them to Camp we cannot pay them what is due for this two months past.

I have been informed by Capt. Blewer & some others That a Col[l] Smith, who was in Fort Mifflin for some time, has made free with my character, which surprizes me much. He received some hurt in his arm in the Fort, came over to Red Bank, & another officer sent to take the Command at the Fort in his place. One day Gen[l] Varnom sent for me on shore to meet him at Col. Green's, at Red Bank Fort. I went, & after doing my business with him, Col. Smith mention'd something to me about the Galleys that I knew to be false. I told him he was a lying scoundrel, with that he made a stroke at me, & nothing prevented me for treating him as he deserved but Gen'l Vernom & a number of other officers who interfered, & I was determined to take an opportunity to call him to account for it, but Gen'l Vernom constantly begging me to make the matter up, & even brought him on board the Province Sloop one night after dark, where part of our board was present, & insisted that we should be friends. After a great deal of persuasions of both sides, the matter was settled; we drank together & parted friends. I heard no more of it until lately, but I cannot find any person who heard him say

* See pp. 132, 167. † See p. 235.

it, or I should call him to a proper account for it. Cap. Blewer likewise informed me that a number of People blames us for burning the Ships. I wrote your Excellence & Council fully on that head before, which I thought was satisfactory.*

I have now to inform your Excellency That we have had several applications for the borrowing some of our armed Boats, by the Inhabitants of our own State, & that they would Mann & Victual them themselves, & would haul them down to Salem by Land, & annoy the enemy down the River. With the approbation of the Navy Board I have lent them. I should have sent them down ourselves, but I was afraid to trust our People with them, as they had run away with two Boats to the enemy, that we had sent down some time before. If your Excellency do not approve of the Boats being lent, we will call them in immediately. We have one Boat down that is on the Fleet's account; with a pickt crew on board that I think may be depended on, & Cap^{n} Collins in her, which I hope will take something before he returns, having not to add,

I am your Excellency's
most obedient
& very h'ble serv^{t},
JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Trenton, Feb^{y} 8th, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President for State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Thomas Jones, D. C. G., to ———, 1778.

(Copy.)

Camp, near Valey Forge, Feb^{y} 8th, 1778.

Sir,

Underneath you have an acc^{t} of what constitutes a Ration, as agreed on by a Board of General officers, on 28th December last, to be delivered out to the Troops, viz:

1¼ ℔ Beef, 1 ℔ Pork, or 1¼ ℔ Salt Fish ℔ Man a Day; 1¼ ℔ Soft Bread, or Flower, 1 ℔ Hard Bread, ½ Gill Wisky, or Rum, ℔ Man ℔ Day, in Lieu of Beer; 3 ℔ Candles ℔ 100 Men ℔ Week for Guards, 24 ℔ Soft Soap, or 8 ℔ of hard Soap, ℔ 100 Men ℔ Week.

N. B. The Liquer to be Issued only on General or Special orders.

You are therefore Requested, on any account whatsoever, not to Deliver any more but agreeable to the above orders, untill further Direction from me. I am sir,

your humble serv't,
THOMAS JONES,
D. C. G. of Issues.

* See pages 47, 121.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 8th Febuary, 1778.

Sir,

I beg leave to refer to my last Letter, under the 27th past.

This will be accompanied by a printed Act of Congress of the 3d Inst.,* & 5 Copies, for obliging officers, military & civil, holding appointments under Congress, to qualify themselves for acting in their respective offices, by taking certain Oaths therein prescribed, of which your Excellency is requested to give public Notice in the State of Pennsylvania, & to lay copies of the Act before the Legislative & Executive Authorities of the State.

I have the honour to be,
with great Regard sir,
your Excellency's
obedient humble serv't
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President Pennsylvania.

Gen'l Wayne to Recruiting Officers, 1778.

Camp, Mount Joy, 10th Feb'y, 1778.

Gentlemen,

You are to proceed Immediately to Lancaster, when you will wait on his Excellency Gov'r Wharton, for Instructions, for the recruiting Service.

I shall only Caution you to guard against Inlist'g any person for a soldier, who may have Ruptures, Sore Leggs, or old running wounds —I have the fullest confidence in your ability and attachments to the Cause, and am well assured, that nothing will be wanting on your Part to Compleat your Respective Corps with all possable Dispatch.

You will from time to time, advise me of your success in the Recruiting Service, with such observations as may tend to facilitate this essential business.

I am Gentlemen,
your mo. ob^{t}
humble Servant
ANT'Y WAYNE, B. G.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 415.

A List of Officers who are Ordered on the Recruit'g Service.

Of 1st Regt Penn.	Of 7th Regt Penn.
Capt. Willm Willson.	Capt. William Alexander.
Lieut. Davd Zigler.	Lieut. Jas Williamson.
Of 2d Regt Penn.	Of 8th Regt Penn.
Capt. Saml Talbort.	Capt. Saml Miller.
Lieut. John Stoy.	Adjutant Crawford.
Of 4th Regt Penn.	Of 10th Regt Penn.
Capt. Edward Scull.	Lieut. Ben. Carpenter.
Lieut. Wm Henderson.	do. Robt Hooper.
Of 5th Regt Penn.	Of 11th Regt Penn.
Capt. Wm Oldham.	Lieut. John Pearson.
Lieut. Chs McHenry.	do. Ben. Hammond.

N. B. The Gentlemen are desired in a particular manner, to take Notice and apprehend all Deserters of what State soever.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 10th Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

I wrote to your Excellency the 8th Inst., by Messenger Barry. Under this Cover your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress for restraining & preventing Malconduct in Continental Officers Civil & Military & for correcting the abuse of Supernumeraries in the Civil Line. Also an Act of the same date recommending to the Legislatures of the several States to Enact Laws for the most speedy & effectual recovery of debts due to the United States of America.

I have the honor to be
with great regard, Sir,
Your Excellencey's Obedient
& most humble Servant
HENRY LAURENS
President of Congress.

Directed,

His Excellency President Wharton, Pennsylvania.

Gen. Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 10th Febr, 1778.

Sir,

I have been honored with your favors of the 15th and 22d ult.,* with the several public acts referred to inclosed. I most sincerely wish that, for compleating your quota of men, may be found adequate to the purpose, but I very much doubt it. I have ordered two proper Officers from every Regiment belonging to your State, to repair to Lancaster, and take their recruiting instructions from you.

I observe, that the State have appointed Col. Francis Johnston to receive and distribute the Cloathing collected by the Commissioners. That Gentleman has not been able to do duty for some time on account of his Health, he is not in Camp at present, and I do not find that he is expected. I therefore most earnestly desire that some other may be appointed, and that what cloathing is collected may be immediately sent down. General Wayne brought a tolerable supply for the two Brigades under his command; but the 3d, 6th, 9th, 12th, and 13th Regiments are in great distress, and are the more uneasy and discontented, as they see their companions are provided for.

Col. Lutterloh, Deputy Qr Mr General, informs me that he found a considerable quantity of cloathing collected at Reading, waiting for an order to be sent forward. This being the particular property of your State, I did not think myself at liberty to interfere with it, but I hope you will immediately order it to Camp. It may come down by Water and save the labor and expence of Waggons.

It certainly was never expected or intended, that the States should furnish their Officers with such Cloathing as was demanded of yours. The recommendation of Congress is, that each State should furnish their Officers and Men with proper (by which I understand decent and substantial) cloathing, at a price in proportion to their pay, and that the loss, which will arise between the first cost and the price at which it may be charged upon delivery, shall be defrayed by the Continent at large.

Inclosed you have the Return of the Commissioned and Staff Officers of your State. You will observe that there are many promotions and vacancies to fill. I put a stop to them untill the new arrangement of the Army, now under consideration, shall be compleated.

I have the Honor to be,
Sir,
Yr most obt Servt,
Go WASHINGTON.

* See pages 180, 200.

Gen. Wayne to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Mount Joy, 10th Febr, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a list of the Officers sent on the Recruiting service* from my Division, who you will see by the within Instructions are Directed to wait on your Excellency for Recruiting Orders. I wish they may meet with that success that the Exigency of the case requires—but I fear that nothing short of a Draft will save America —however the effect, of a total prohibition of the substitute business ought first to be tryed. I flatter myself that when the People (who used to hire themselves as substitutes) once find that no more *Hundred Dollars* can be had in that way, that they will Enlist in the line of the Continent.

But I am confident that they never will whilst any Idea is held up of a *family substitute*—for it is only hireing a man to day, and he may be sent to-morrow as a substitute belonging to my family.

Will you and the Hon'ble Council use your Influence with the House of Assembly to put this substitute business totally out of the Question—for believe me that the Salvation of this State Depends upon the exertions that may be made during the Winter towards filling the Continental Regiments.

I wish you to order all such Recruits as may be enlisted, to be completely Uniformed before they leave Lancaster—I also wish that no more Cloth be made up into Coats unless it be *blue*, but that all the rest be made into Overalls and Vests, except such Colours as will admit of being dyed blue—the Virginians have rec'd Blue Cloth sufficient for to Uniform the whole of their Troops—so that I fear we shall be eclipsed by all the other States, unless we take some pains to give our Soldiers an Eligent Uniform—for I do lay it down as a position that the best Dressed Troops will ever be both the *Healthiest* and the *Bravest* with equal *Discipline* and *Regimen*.

The Clothier General Informed me when I was at Lancaster that there were shirts in plenty at Camp. I find he was mistaken, for altho some Hundreds of our poor worthy fellows have not a single ragg of a shirt, (but are obliged to wear their waistcoats next their skins & to sleep in them at nights,) I have not been able to draw a single shirt from the store, for the want of which our men are falling sick in numbers every day—contracting vermin and dying in Hospitals, in a condition shocking to Humanity, & horrid in Idea—for God sake procure a Quantity for me if you strip the Dutchmen for them—which I beg you'l order to Camp together with such other Cloathing as may be ready, with all possible Dispatch.

Interim I am your Excellencies most Ob't
& very Humⁱ Serv't,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

* See page 249.

Directed.

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^r, President of Pennsa., Lancaster.

Ant'y Wayne.

Ephraim Blaine, Esq. to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp at Valley Forge, Feb'y 12, 1778.

Hon^d Sir,

The neglect in the Quarter Master Department, not keeping up a continual supply of waggons from the Magazines with provisions, renders it difficult for me to support the army; have not received one Brigade of Waggons from Lancaster or the Back counties this three Weeks. The Quarter Masters complain they have no power to press and have great difficulty in procuring a single Team. Wou'd request your honor's immediate assistance to adopt such measures as to your prudence may Effect, drawing out the necessary supply of Teams, Two Hundred & odd will be wanting in our Department.

If this salutary measure cannot be put in execution very shortly, the army will suffer. There is Flour and Whiskey in every county sufficient to load such waggons as may be commanded. The badness of the Roads have deprived a single waggon from coming to Camp this several days.

I am with great respect,
Your Honor's most obed't and
most H'ble Serv't,
EPH. BLAINE, D. C. G.

Directed,

Governor Wharton.

Col. Rich'd Butler to President Wharton, 1779.

Sir,

In Obedience to his Excellency General Washington's Orders, I send Capt^n Grant & Lieuten't Brown, of my Regiment, to wait on your Excellency for your Instructions to Superintend the Recruiting Services, & from their Conduct & Character, as officers, I hope

they will answer the Purpose Intended. If they should not, I will on the first notice Send other two to relieve them, but flatter myself there will be no need.

I now beg leave to mention to your Excellency, and the members of the Honourable Supreme Executive Council of the State, the disagreeable, & in fact, Distressed State of the Regiment I have the Honour to Command; they are totally naked for body Cloathing, & not a Blanket to seven men, I have been obliged to Retain the Tents as substitutes for blankets to keep them from the Inclemency of the Season at night. This is a true through disagreeable state of their Situations, & yet I have to say to their honor, there is fewer desertions than any Regt I know; these Facts Renders their Situation very uncomfortable & the Officers unhappy, but I Rely on it that Your Excellency & the Honbl Council will have us in view & afford the earliest Relief.

I would not be so Prolix in this my first Address to Your Excellency, but that there is no general Officer of the State to state our Necessitys, which I dont Confine to my own Regt, as there is three other of the State in the same Condition, or as near as Can be supposd, viz., the 3d, 6th, 12th; it Causes some little uneasiness to see General Waynes Division so much better Provided for than those of Major Genl Lord Sterlings, who belong to the same State, but Your Excellency may Depend, that evry Idea of Partiality shall be suppressd to the utmost of my power & Influence, Relying on Your Excellency & the Honbl Council for the earliest supply to the wants of the whole.

I am, Sir, with the most Profound Respect,

Your Excellencys Most Obedient

and very Humble Servant,

RICH'D BUTLER,

Col. 9th Pennsa Regt.

Camp at Valley Forge, the 12th Feb'y, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Governor Wharton, Presidt of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania, Lancaster.

℔ favr Captn Grant, 9th P. Regt.

Gen. Washinton to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 12th Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor of yours of the 7th instant, which is fully answered by mine of the 10th.*

When the Winter Quarters of the Army were arranged, it was agreed between Gen'l Armstrong and myself, that the Militia of this State should cover the Country between the Schuylkill and Delaware, in order to prevent the incursions of small parties of the Enemy, and to cut off the intercourse between the City and County.

The number of Militia fixed upon for this purpose were one thousand, which Gen'l Armstrong promised should be regularly kept up. Upon the appointment of Gen'l Lacey, Gen'l Potter, who had been long from home, gave up the command to him. As I have not the pleasure of knowing Gen'l Lacy, I will not undertake to say whether the little that has been done since Gen'l Potters departure, has been owing to any want of activity in him, or whether he has not been furnished with the stipulated number of men; but this is a fact, that they have by some means or other dwindled away to nothing, and there are no guards within twenty miles of the City on the East Side of Schuylkill, except a few Patrols of Light Horse, who being unsupported by Foot, dare not go near the enemy's lines. Owing to this, the intercourse of all the country between Schuylkill and Delaware is as open and uninterrupted as ever it was, and must continue so, unless a sufficient number of Militia are immediately ordered out. The Continental Troops, much worn down with the fatigues of the Campaign—building themselves houses and fortifying their Camp, are unable to perform more duty than they have to do on this Side of the River, especially as many of them cannot leave their Quarters for want of Cloathing.

I hope from this state of facts that you will immediately order out at least the number of Men stipulated by Gen'l Armstrong, and if possible, some hundred more, for the purpose of forming the most advanced Guard, as we find the continental Troops, (especially those who are not Natives,) are very apt to desert from the pickets.

I have the Honor to be

Sir, Y^r^ most ob^t^ Serv^t^.

G°. WASHINGTON.

P. S. Since writing the above I have rec^d^ a letter from Gen'l Lacey, dated at Warwick, in Bucks County, in which he informs me that his Numbers are reduced to between 60 and 100.†

Directed.

On Public Service—

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^r^., President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

G°. Washington.

* See pages 241, 250.

† See pages 202, 226.

Council to Gen. Lacey, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, Feb'y 13, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 2nd instant* is now before us, and we hope you are considerably reinforced before this time.

It is the wish of the Council that you would direct your Brigade Major to transmit to the Secretary, from time to time, abstracts of the returns of the Adjutants. This was, heretofore, the business of Mr. Bull, but the reduced numbers of the Militia not requiring his Services, he was dismissed & no person retained for this Service. Want of information of this nature makes it difficult to regulate the march of Militia. Their arrival in Camp is also retarded by not knowing what Arms, Accoutrements, Axes, Kettles, & blankets, remain at Camp, from time to time, on the dismissal of Militia. The Corps, w^ch^ has lately gone down from Cumberland, whose Services at Camp was greatly needed at that time, spent a week here, & were not without difficulty persuaded to proceed, because they were short of Arms & Blankets, tho' after the late return of 3000 of our people, there should be a very considerable Quantity of these furniture at or near Camp. You will see by this the utility of such notices.

It is not usual to grant a Commission to Brigade Majors, and it is wholly unnecessary in the case of Lieut. Frost, as he has a Commission as Lieut^t^.

His Ex^y^ General Washington, having expressed his disapprobation of the distribution of Spirits of any kind, in the manner proposed by the General Assembly, and they having received information of his opinions herein; on Sunday, September the fourteenth, resolved in the following words, viz^t^., "That the Militia of this State, now in actual Service, and those who shall be called out during this Campaign, shall receive one Shilling Per Day, in lieu of all retained rations of liquor, voted them at the last Sitting of Assembly."

Council to Gen. Washington, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, Feb'y 13, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellency's letter of the 10th instant† is now before us. Council have too much reason to fear that the Act for compleating our Quota of troops will not be effectual, and therefore hope that the General Assembly, at their meeting on the 18th instant, will

* See page 226. † See page 250.

give immediate attention to this great object, which we are sensible is of the highest importance and deserves the first attention.

Colonel Francis Johnston being in a State of health, that induced him to decline accepting the office to which he was appointed by the Act of Assembly respecting Cloathing, Council have appointed Mr. Jacob S. Howell to act in his stead; he is now in this borough, and is exerting himself to get the cloathing forwarded to Camp. About four hundred Suits, and a like number of Shoes, are nearly ready, and will be forwarded in a few days. However unwilling this Council may be to encumber your Excellency with business of this kind on common occasions, they are happy in the opportunity which your letter affords them of requesting Your Excellency's attention and care, in Supply^g the wants of the five regiments you mention, out of the cloathing which shall first come to hand; and, if it is not sufficient, to assure them that more will be forwarded as expeditiously as they can be made up—this business is now in a proper line for dispatch, and will be carefully attended to. The cloathing mentioned by Col^l Lutterloh, as being at Reading, we suppose, is such as hath been collected under the Ordinance of the late Council of Safety, and directed to be delivered to the Clothier General; orders have been repeated to the Gentlemen in whose care they are to send them forward immediately, as they are not made up as we understand.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

(Received February 18.)

In Congress, Feb. 14^th, 1778.

Whereas it is expedient & necessary to lay up magazines of provisions for the support of the army, & for that purpose Congress have directed 12,000 barrels of flour to be deposited at or near Lancaster; 8000 barrels at or near Reading; 6000 barrels at or near Bethlehem; 2000 barrels at Downing's Town, & 2000 barrels at Pottsgrove;* and, Whereas, in consequence of the recommendation of Congress, the general assembly of Pennsylvania have by a law appointed commissioners in each county within their State, to purchase or seize wheat, flour & other provisions, &c., for the supply of the army, pursuant to such orders as they shall receive from Congress:

Resolved,

That the president & executive council of the State of Pennsylvania be desired to issue the money with which they have been or shall be furnished by Congress, to the said commissioners, in such

* See page 177.

proportions as they shall think fit; that they instruct the commissioners on the east side of Susquehanna to proceed without delay in the execution of the trust reposed in them; & that they instruct them to which of the above-mentioned places they shall convey the flour & other provisions which they shall purchase or seize, in order to form the magazines aforesaid.

That the said executive council be authorized & requested to appoint a suitable person at each of the above places, with such a salary as they shall judge reasonable, to inspect, receive, store, & take care of the provisions aforesaid, & to issue the same upon the orders of the board of war, until Congress shall appoint other storekeepers in their stead.

That the president and council aforesaid be requested to cause a weekly return to be made to the board of war of the quantity of provisions stored at each of the places above.mentioned.

That the board of war give directions & orders to the commissioners appointed by the aforesaid law in the several counties on the West side of Susquehannah, respecting the quantity of provisions to be purchased or collected by them, & the places to which the same shall be conveyed; & that the said board shall appoint a suitable person at each of the places they shall fix on, with such a salary as they shall judge reasonable, to inspect, receive, store & take care of the said provisions, & to issue the same upon the orders of the board of war.

That the commissioners aforesaid be authorized to purchase every kind of provision and forage wanted for the army, not confining themselves to the article of flour. That the said commissioners deliver the live stock by them purchased to the order of the deputy commissary general of purchases or his assistants, & the forage to the order of the commissary of forage or his assistants; to whom, severally, they are directed to send immediate notice when such purchases are made, & to take duplicate receipts upon the delivery, one of which they shall transmit to the board of war.

That the board of war be directed to correspond from time to time with the president & council of Pensylvania respecting the business aforesaid, & if from the circumstances & situation of affairs they shall judge it proper or necessary to lessen the quantity of provisions to be laid up between Susquehannah & Delaware rivers, or to change the places of the magazines, that they communicate the same to the president & council, who are requested to attend thereto, & to issue orders to the commissioners to govern themselves accordingly.

And whereas the board of war have judged it expedient & necessary that a greater quantity of flour & other provisions than was directed by the resolution of Congress of the 15 January, should be purchased & other magazines formed besides those above-mentioned, & have, agreeably to the powers vested in them by the said resolution of the 15 Jan^{y}, employed superintendants for the purchase of flour, &c.,

Resolved,

That the board proceed in that business, & that they direct their superintendants to purchase such farther quantities of flour & provisions, & have them conveyed to & secured in such places as the board shall direct; & that they instruct such of their superintendants as may purchase in Pensylvania to avoid clashing with the commissioners appointed by the law of that State in the execution of their duty.

That the said board be impowered to appoint a suitable person at each of the new magazines which they shall establish, with such a salary as they shall judge reasonable, to inspect, receive, store, & take care of the provisions purchased & conveyed thither by the said superintendants, & to issue the same upon the orders of the board of war.

That the superintendants appointed by the board of war be allowed a commission not exceeding 2½ per Cent. on all purchases by them made, in full, for their trouble & expences therein; & that in purchasing they do not exceed the prices established by the laws of the States in which the purchases are made; and

That the president & council of Pensylvania be impowered to settle the pay or allowance to be made to the commissioners appointed by the law of their State for their trouble & expence in purchasing, seizing & collecting provisions & forage not exceeding 2½ p. Cent. on the provisions & forage by them so purchased or seized for the army.*

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Council to Magistrates of Lancaster and Chester, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, Feb'y 14, 1778.

Gent'n.,

Council has this Day receiv'd information that an affray has happened at the sign of the Compass on the Great Road leading to Phila., between some officers in the Continental service & others, Inhabitants of this State, in which one person, Lieut. Hammon, has been unhappily killed, & several others dangerously wounded. Wm. Attlee, Esq., one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, writes to you by this messenger, to request your particular attention to this unhappy Quarrel, to take the proper depositions and order an Inquest on the body of the

* See page 177.

unfortunate man, in order that those who have been concerned may be brought to justice. I hope no resistance will be made to this inquiry, or to such Lawful steps as the nature of the case requires, if there should you are to call upon the Lieutenants or sub Lieutenants of the County to furnish you with a sufficient guard of the Militia, to keep the peace & enable you to proceed on the business with safety.

Directed,

To the Magistrates of Lancaster and Chester Counties.

James Young, Wagon Master General, to T. Matlack, 1778.

Reading, Feb. 14, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I have just time to acquaint you I came here the 9th Inst., & take the liberty to beg you will forward the Inclosed, I not knowing Mr. Bagley's address. I refer you to the Contents of his letter to show the urgent haste. Pray send it him by express. Our army are in Distress, for Heaven's sake forward assistance to them.

I am

Respectfully,

Your most Obed^{t} Serv^{t}

JAS. YOUNG.

Directed,

On Public Service, To Timothy Matlack, Esqr., Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favourd ℔ M^{r} Christian Van Pheel, whose care is requested.

The Petition of Robert Hardie, 1778.

To His Excellency The President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The appeal of Robert Hardie, late Commander of the Burk Galley, from the Judgment of a Court Martial held at Bristol, the 9th of Dec^{r}. ult., for the Tryal of s^{d} Robert Hardie, for disobeying the Commodore's orders.

May it please your Excellency,

I was ordered, with three more Gallies, to lye guard at Burlington; after remaining five or six days on constant Duty, with the Boats at Point-no-Point during the Day, & returning every Night, the officers & Men complained that they were not relieved according to Custom, nor the Promise that had been given to them by the Commanding officers. I accordingly applied to the Commodore to

know when we were to be relieved, He told me if the Galleys were to lye there six Months, they should not be relieved. I remonstrated to the Commodore that his Treatment was contrary to all order & Regularity, in the highest Degree arbitrary & oppressive, & that without a regular Rotein of Duty through the whole Fleet, & a total Impartiality, Anarchy & Confusion would ensue. That I thought it my duty to myself & crew, to deviate from such absurd orders, & that I would immediately order my galley to Bristol. This was put into Execution, I was arrested of consequence, the Court set & I was broke & ordered to be confined as a dangerous Man to the American states. My Tryal was equally unjust & cruel. Instead of being tried according to our Regulations, by the galley officers—the Men that fought, guarded & did every other Duty with me. The Court consisted of many of the officers of the Fire Vessels & Guard Boats, Men that had never been on the like Business, some not of age, particularly the Commodore's son, who from his Father's accusation, had no right to a seat. The Judgment showed the Inability of the Court, for without any Evidence, on other grounds, than the visionary Phantoms of their childish Brains, I was to be confined as a dangerous Enemy to the states. My constant & uniform Behaviour ever since the Beginning of this Contest gives their suspicions the Lye. To serve my Country I have sacrificed a private Fortune sufficient to have supported me with ease & affluence. Considerable sums are now in the state Funds, to sink or swim by the Issue of our arms, &c., myself risquing my Person equally with my fellow sufferers to banish Tyranny from our shores. Under these peculiar Circumstances, to have my character thus stigmatized, after giving up my Possessions in Philadelphia to the Hands of the Enemy, to be deprived of the Pay & subsistence necessary for one at this Juncture, to supply the wants of a wife & a large Family of Children, is distressing to the highest Degree. I acknowledge I was too rash & hasty in my Proceedings, but I, at the same time think the Commodore's Behaviour was much more so, & had no Failure happened on his Part there would not have been any Rupture. I have applied to the Commodore to reinstate me, but he says he has it not in his power, desiring me at the same time to make application to your Excellency, & that he does not doubt but I shall be satisfied. Relying, therefore, on your Excellency's Favor & Good Will, I flatter myself I shall have it once more in my Power to shew my steady & firm attachment to this state in particular, & to the whole United States of America.

I am your Excellency's
Most obedient humble servant,
ROB^{t}. HARDIE,

Bristol, Feby. 14th, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

Col. J. Kirkbride to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Bellevue, 14th Feb., 1778.

Sir,

You have undoubt'ly before this heard of the unhappy Capture of Poor Col. Coats, which was intirely done by Treachery and for want of a proper guard upon the roads in that quarter. Mrs. Coats has been to Town since that misfortune hapned her Husband, and with much Difficulty did get to see him, but not without having an English officer at her Elbow during the whole Intervue.

She is now returned & at my house—Says he has met with some kindness from some of his Friends their, but is confined in one of the rooms of the new Goal, with Capt. Swift & one or two others, & has once been permitted to go as far as Burns's under the care of a guard. But what gives the Col. & Mrs. Coats very great concern is, a Violent Fever which prevails very much among the prisoners and Carry's numbers of them off.

Col. Coats is exceedingly desirous of being Exchanged, or at least, put upon parole, And most hartily begs your Excellency's kind Intercession (as far as may be thought proper or Consistant) in his behalf, as a Lieut. of, & a Representative for the County of Philad^{a}., make no doubt your Excellency will do every thing in your power for his relief.

I must now beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that our Roads near the Delaware leading upwards, are intirely left open to the Ravages of the Enemy, and a Constant Intercourse is kept up between the City & the disaffected part of the Country. I am almost every day warn'd by some one or other of my Friends to be upon my guard, as I have for some time past been threatened by the Enemy, and by a letter from the City—am afraid a plan is forming, through Treachery, to kidnap as many as possible of the Friends of Liberty, for which a handsome reward is offer'd, of (that God of the world) hard money.

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

I was at Gen^{l}. Lacey's Camp the other day, he then Expected a num^{r} of Militia in a short time, and as soon as they arriv'd he promis'd to send a party to defend & guard our roads, but, I am sorry to say, I rec'd a Letter from him yesterday informing me that not a single man had arriv'd since I left Camp, & that his whole Command, at this Time, Consist'd of about Sixty privates & thirteen L^{t}. Horse, twelve of which was sent from this County, and I purpose (if possible) to keep up a Competent number of Horse, as the General finds them very useful. Upon application of several of the good Friends to our Country, I have agreed to rais a small party

of Foot Volunteers to Check the Influence of the Torys below Bristol, and in the neighbourhood near Neshaminy, which will be some small security to the people in that quarter.

I have Ventur'd to go so far as to promise those that will spiritedly exert themselves on this Ocasion, shall have C^r. in their proper Class when call'd, and I am well convinced the Collectors in that quarter cannot Carry on their Business without some protection of this sort, and I shall be very happy to find this plan meet your Excellency's approbation.

Your Exc^y, I expect, has rec'd a Letter from Col. Coats respect'g the distress of the state Navey for want of Cash. I expect soon to have a Considerable sum Collected, and if it should be Consistant with your Judgment, can furnish that Board with such sum as I can command. The galley men are Deserting every day, & Chiefly, I am well Inform'd, for want of their pay; I hope to hear from your Excellency as soon as possible on this head, as well as others, which shall Govern my Conduct. I forgot in my last, to thank your Excellency for the Early advice you were pleas'd to give me of Gen^l. Lacey's appointment, and to Express my hearty approbation, I am convinced he will do servis to his Country & Honour to his appointment.

I have the Hon^r to be your
Exc^y & the Honble Council's
Most obed^t Humb. Serv^t,
JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^r., President of the State of Pennsyl^a. at Lancaster.

Favoured by
Mr. Melliges.

Col. Jo. Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1778.

Bellevue, 15th Feb., 1778.

Sir,

This day a Letter from the Secretary, by Order of the Honb. Council, dated the 20th Ultimo, came to my hand, respect'g a Return of the N^o of armes within the several Battalions of this County. Your Excel'y will please to Consider the length of time this Letter has been coming, as the Only reason of your not hearing from me before this time, on that head. I have Now to request Y^r Excellency, that Upon the Discharge of the last Battalion of this County, from the Cituation of our Affairs, I thought it proper to Send the

Armes Some distance up the County for Safety, where they principally are—N° of them ware deliver' up to Gen'l Armstrong, on the Discharge of the Battalion before last, at Camp, and N° lost in Actual Servis, and in particular Over the Schuylkill, where many of Our Militia were taken prisoners.

I therefore have it not in my power at this time to transmit Your Excellency the true State & N° of our Armes, but I suppose we may have between two & three Hundred in our possession, but as soon as possible will procure an Exact account and sent it forward.

I wrote Your Excellency two days past, since which we have been allarm'd by the Enemy's coming out into the Neighbourhood of the Red Lyon, & have Captur'd some more of our Friends, particularly M^r. Jn° Vandegrift, a Commissioner for this County, & his Son, Mr. Edward Duffield, & several others not yet known to me. Our Country is Intirely Open & Naked, & like to be much ravig'd by the Enemy; it throws our officers into Confusion & Backins our Business very much. I am doing every thing in my power to Spirit up a Small party to keep down the Torys, until we can get some better defence.

I have rote this in great haste, and must beg Your Excellency's Excuse for the many Blunders you will probably find.

And I am Your Excellency's

Most Obedient & Very Humb. Serv^t.

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^r., President, &c., of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Gen. Washington to ——— ———, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, Feb'y 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

I this minute received your favour of the 14th ins^t, with inclosures.

I am constrained to inform You that the Situation of the army is most critical & alarming for want of provisions of the meat kind. Many of the troops for four days, & some longer, have not drawn the smallest Supplies of this article. This being the case, it is needless to add, to convince You of their distress they have been on the point of dispersing, & without the earliest relief, no address or authority will be Sufficient to keep them long together. Their patience & endurance are great, but the demands of nature must be Satisfied. I must therefore, Gentlemen, entreat & request your immediate & most active exertions to procure & to forwarde to Camp, as expedi-

tiously as possible, all the provisions of the meat kind which it may be in your power to obtain. I would not have you wait till You collect a large quantity, but wish You to Send on Supplies as fast as you can get them.

The troops must have instant relief, or we shall have reason to apprehend the worst consequences. I need not mention to You the necessity of Secrecy, in an affair of such delicacy—your own prudence & discretion will point it out.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obed^{t} Servant,
GEO: WASHINGTON.

Post.

Postscript—The State of forage is the same with that of provisions, & a supply is materially wanted—Without it, & very speedily, we shall not have a horse left.

A true Copy—Jona^{n} Mifflin, Junr.

Philip Marsteller to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Lebanon, Feb^{r} 15th, 1778.

Honord S^{r},

By this Express I have Sent a Letter to his Excellency, the President, relating to the Guards at Lebanon, in case his Excellency should be absent, I would wish that the Letter be opened and laid before Council Immediately, as the matter Admits of no delay. I have Ordered the Express to wait for an Answer, therefore, hope he will meet with timely dispatch. I am told by divers Persons that there were a Numbor of Fore-Stallers of Horses Brought to Lancaster Goal, but could not come at the Circumstance with any Certainty, therefore would beg to be inform'd of that, as well as of other news if any there is. I hope to see you Soon. I remain, S^{r}, after giving my Complim^{ts} to Col. Morgan, and asking Pardon for my freedom,

Your very Humbl^{e} Serv^{t}.
PHILIP MARSTELLER.*

Directed—To the Honb. Geo. Bryan, Esqr., at Lancaster.
Express.

Philip Marsteller to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Lebanon, Feb^{r} 15th, 1778.

S^{r},

I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that the Militia Men on duty here are now reduced to 30 men, and that in less than ten days the whole of them will be free. We are now Obliged to put some of the Inhabitants on duty, (who have already served their Turn) in

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 417.

order to mount the necessary Guards, it being out of the Power of those few men left to do the Duty with any safety. The Stores are so Scatterd about the Town, (for want of convenient Buildings) that not less than 10 Centinals ought to be kept day and night, exclusive of the Hessian Guards, (one mile out of Town); the People are extremely hard to get to duty without a Call from the Honorable the Council; therefore, wish that Instructions may be sent to know in what manner the Guards are to be kept up in this place. I am of Opinion, that if the first Class of the Militia of Col. Greenwalts Battalion, (being the 1st of the County) be ordered to do this duty, it will Produce a sufficient number of good Men to this important Service, and will be more Satisfactory to the Inhabitants of the place, then to have Strangers, for we have a number of Artificers, many of them not of the best behaviour, who would soon Reign over the Inhabitants, were they Strengthend by Strange Troops. Col. Grubb, the Acting Sub-Lieut. of this part of the Country, is Confined to his Bed by a Severe Sickness, therefore thought it my duty to report the matter to your Excellency.

And as it is a matter of the utmost Importance which admits of no delay, I have Ordered the Express to wait for an Answer. I am, S^{r}, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's Dutiful and
Very Humb. Serv^{t}.
PHILIP MARSTELLER.

Directed.

On Public Service—His Excellency Thomas Wharton, ju^{r}., Esq^{r}. at Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Brig. Gen. Lacey to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Bucks County, Warwick Township,
Feb. 15th, 1778.

Sir,

My force is at Last reduced to Almost a Cypher, only 60 Remain fit for duty in Camp; from this Number you must, of Course, Suppose we are in no way Capable of Guarding so extensive a Country as this, nor even safe in our Camp, as our number will not afford a sufficient Picquet or Scout for our Protection. I hear some troops are on their way to Join me, from Cumberland County; Six or Seven, who out Travelled the rest, Arrived in Camp Last night.

A Party of the Enemys light Horse Came up as far as Butler's Tavern, on the Old York Road, about fourteen Miles from Philad^{a}, the Night of the 13th Instant took Mr. Butler, One of the Light

Horse Men, and thence Struck a Cross the Country to Majr Wright's Tavern, near White Marsh, and took him, with some others Prisoners, and then Retired to the City. Yesterday another party of Foot and Horse advanced up the Newtown Road as far as Smithfield, took, it is Reported, near fourty Prisoners, the Collectors and Militia Officers. I hear they are yet in the Neighborhood.

I remain, Sir, with respect,

Your Excellencys most

Obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN LACEY, Junr.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Jun. Esq., President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Favour of Majr Cummings.

President Wharton to Thos. McKean, Esq., 1778.

Lancaster, 15th February, 1778.

Dear Sir,

An incident at Reading some days past disturbs me. Mr. Sergeant being there, as Attorney General at the Quarter Sessions, was assaulted and beaten by Robert Lettis Hooper, Esquire, on account of some information the former gave in the late Council of Safety of this State. As I was instrumental in bringing him into the Council, I look on myself as called to step forth on this occasion, in behalf of a worthy man who is much injured, & for the public service, which is hurt, more especially as this is the second outrage of this sort on Mr. Sergeant, for his honest zeal in noting the irregularities of continental officers. How far such proceedings tend to discover & convict the manifold abuses in every department, of which every good man is sensible & which he bewails, you will Judge. Certainly, few will care to undertake the hazardous business of bringing these evils to light when the offender is prepared to use violence on his accusers.

Many & loud complaints were, I understood, made to assembly last fall against Mr. Hooper & others. The house were on the Eve of dissolution & had not time to go through them. They were taken up in the Council of Safety. This body, consisting of 24 members, upon the general face of the matter, represented Mr. John Biddle & Mr. Hooper as officers whose conduct was complained of. Mr. Biddle has since verified the charge by going off to the Enemy. Congress desired Evidence as to the first. Some affidavits were taken. One was drawn for Mr. Sergeant to attest; it related to the Counte-

nance given by Mr. Hooper, in furnishing a Letter to one *Leonard*, an avowed Jersey Tory, to pass thro' Pennsilvania. It happened that Mr. Sergeant left Town without finishing this affidavit. Another, drawn for Mr. Arndt, of Northampton, was left in the same state. When Mr. Arndt was travelling homewards he was threatened & insulted by Hooper, & threats were also liberally made openly by him, against Mr. Sergeant. I was told that if he went to the Decem^r Court in Easton he would be threshed. This however, did not happen. That Mr. Hooper by these menaces intended to prevent Evidence being collected I will not say, but that they had such a tendency is obvious. I write as unbiassed on this subject as any member of the Council of Safety can, for I happened to be absent when the complaints ag^t Mr. H. were made. No difference has ever happened between him & me. When he asked an office of Council, I confess that upon 20 years general knowledge of him, I preferred another. Perhaps I was mistaken; but as I did for the best, I have nothing to accuse myself of on that head. I am told he solicited that of L^t of Militia of our Assembly, they named a German. Perhaps, because people of that kind abound in the County of Northampton, and his good conduct has done honour to their choice. By a glare of evidence it appears that Mr. H. not only refused to take & subscribe an Oath of Allegiance, ordered by law, but that he influenced others to decline it. This conduct brought him very naturally under the suspicion of being a Tory; for tho' his connection with the army might, perhaps, excuse him from the test, yet wherefore he should, if a whig, set himself against this necessary mode of discrimination between friends & foes, is hard to be accounted for. Certain it is the whig opposers of the Constitution framed by Convention (among whom Mr. Hooper, a Candidate for its offices could not be) generally by example & influence took the lead in carrying the test act into effect. Even delegates of the state in Congress, whose dislike of the plan of Government was manifest, & who were not obliged by the act, took the earliest opportunity of recommending this method of serving the common cause, by attesting in the usual form. I am glad however, as I hear that Mr. H. resents the suspicion, that Congress have at length prescribed a form for their officers, that will enable him to yield a Testimony of this nature without any scruple. It will also greatly relieve the good people of the state, who have long seen with surprise & disgust that officers in the Continental service were not always Whigs. Of this Mr. John Biddle & Mr. Carpenter Wharton are plain instances.

But to return, the omission of taking these attestations delayed the sending the proofs to York. On Mr. Arndt's return he finished his. Mr. Sergeant did not come back till lately, when he declined to attest to the writing he had drawn up. I shall not assign his reasons as I have not heard them. At Reading Mr. Hooper met him, & acted as above. What passed I am not exactly informed. From Mr. Sergeant we have nothing on the subject.

By the above relation you will see the rise of the Complaint against Mr. Hooper; how it was embarrassed & delayed, & what part Mr. S. had in it. Prudence, perhaps, would have suggested to me silence in this business, what I have had hitherto no hand in. Mr. Sergeant was the smallest, Mr. Arndt the oldest & most infirm of the late Council of Safety. They were very unequal to H. in power of body, & his advantage over them was great. He would have no less if he aimed his strokes at me, for long sickness has enervated & stiffened me much. But I have some thing in me that will not suffer me to be silent, let the consequences be what they may.*

Indorsed,

Feb. 15, 1778. To the Hon. Thos. McKean, Esq.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, Feb'y 16, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to the request of the Hn'ble board of war of the 31st ult., the facts relating to the flagg have been collected and would have been forwarded before now, but that it was hoped some further circumstances would have transpired in the examination of the horse thieves sent out of the City by General Howe, and some of the papers were wanted by the Court Martial on their trial—but no further evidence appears.

On the arrival of the flagg in this borough, Capt. Wilson & Lieut. Patterson, the officers appointed by General Washington, to attend the Flagg, waited on the Council for instructions respecting the price to be paid by the enemy officers for provisions on their journey, and produced a list of prices which, they said, had been given them by a superior officer; but it was not signed—As the Council was not authorized by law to limit the prices of articles of any kind, they did not chuse to interfere, or give any directions in the matter, further than to inform the Gentlemen, that there was a law of the State forbiding the asking a higher price for any thing whatever in continental money than in gold or silver. Lieutenant Patterson afterwards complained that Mr. Herbert, a tavern keeper in this borough, had made out the bill against the enemy's officers much lower than his bill for like articles. Mr. Herbert was sent for and the matter examined. It appeared that the articles tho' high were charged at the rates then commonly paid by travellers, and therefore Council declined to order any abatement in the bill; or to give a list of prices

* There is no sig. nor address to this, but it is in the same hand as many of the other rough drafts of Council papers of T. W. See page 242.

to be paid on the road. Soon after this Council were informed that the enemy officers were determined to return unless something further was done in their favour, to which it was replied, that the Gentlemen were perfectly at liberty to do as they pleased in that respect, and that they might depend no law of the State would be violated in order to induce them to go forward. What passed between our officers and those of the Flag, or between either of them and the Gentlemen who signed and sent the paper to Council, which has been sent forward to the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress, we do not pretend to know; The Flagg however went forward. After the bills were paid the Council requested William Henry, Esq., to take Mr. Herberts deposition on the facts, with intention to forward it to Congress; but upon reading it, they thought it might probably induce some unfavourable suspicions of the conduct of Lieu[t] Patterson with respect to the said money, and being desirous to avoid this, as it might be injurious to that young gentlemen, they declined sending it at that time. They now enclose it without further comment.

The deposition of M[r] John Miller will shew the *indecency* of the direction upon several packages sent by the Flag. The representation of Wm. Henry, Esq[r]. will give you the facts relating to the Counterfeit money found on the Serjeants & others attend'g the flagg. You will judge what connexion Capt. Christie's deposition *may have* with this affair.

The depositions of Lieut. Colonel Stewart, Eliz[a] Brisben, & Margaret Patton contain the best intelligence we have received of the conduct on the return of the flag.

Many circumstances have occurred which induce a Suspicion that very improper sentiments have been thrown out by the enemy officers on their way and in this borough, but, upon enquiry, no direct evidence of the facts have been obtained.

The examination of Joseph Rode and Henry Mansin are also enclosed; that of Wendel Myer, it is probable, will be wanted on his tryal before a Civil Court, and it is to the Same purpose with the other two is not Sent.*

Delegates of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York, 16th Feb'y, 1778.

Hon'd Sir,

The Delegates take the liberty to send, enclosed, the last resolve of Congress, relative to the purchase of Provisions, &c., for the Army. They have not lost a moment since the Voting of the money, which was on Friday last, to procure a warrant & have it passed the Treasury. But upon applying to the Treasurer it was impossible to procure more than 16 quire, amounting to £52,000, at this time, as he was pressed by Prior Orders. The same hour it

* See pages 201, 206, 214, 217, 221–226, 233.

was received one quire of the Draught was put into Major Scott's hands; one do. into Major Dills, who had waited two days (after advancing £150 of his private money in purchases); 2 do. were sent by Major Dill to the Cumberland Com'y, which he engaged to deliver on Saturday; and the remaining 12 quire we send by the bearer, which is the whole of $52,000. We hope your Hon'r & the Council will approve of the advances to the York & Cumberland Commiss'rs, which we should not have done without especial order —if it had been practicable to send an Express, but the River forbid it. We hope the unhappy, & we fear fatal delay, in this business, in the distressed state of our Army, will not be attributed by our state, to any neglect or want of zeal in their Delegates, and we heartily pray that a moment longer may not be lost in a business so pressing & necessary. We shall, if agreeable to your Honour & Council, urge the Treasurer to compleat the residue of the War^t^ for $300,000 in favour of our State, with all possible dispatch.

we have the Honour to be,
with all due respect,
your h'ble serv^ts^,
(By order of y^e^ delegates.)
JAS. SMITH.

17th.

Mr. Dickson takes the charge of this, but without y^e^ money. The Delegates hope to be able to draw y^e^ whole to-morrow, & will send it in safe custody to the River by Thirsday noon, where they will deliver it to your Excellencie's order, & hope some proper person may be ordered from Lancaster to receive y^e^ same at y^e^ River.

your Exce'y
most obed't,
JAS. SMITH.

By order of y^e^ Pres^t^.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

James Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

Yesterday evening the Resolve of Congress of Saturday was sent, enclosed by Mr. Dickson, with an account of the Recet of 52,000 Dollars, received by the Delegates, out of which 13,000 Dollars was

paid to the York & Cumberland County Comiss^{rs}; the Remainder being 39,000 Dollars, & 100,000 Dollars received this day is forwarded by the Sheriff of York County; as there is not a moment to be lost he is sent to day, which will, we hope, prevent the trouble of sending to the River, as mentioned in the Postscript of yesterday's Letter. As the superintendants are dismounted on the East side the River, it might not have been so proper to apply to the usual place for a Guard & Convoy, and makes it more necessary for the Com^{rs} on the East side to exert themselves, lest the army should suffer.

We have the honor to be,
May it please your Excellency,
Your most obed^{t} Serv^{ts},
(By order of y^{e} Deleg.)
JAS. SMITH.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}, Presid^{t} of Pennsylvania.

℔ Sheriff Rowan.

Lt. Jno. Wetzel to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Allentown, the 17th February, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

The Indispensible Duty I owe to your Excellency and the Council, Induces me to Inform your Excellency of a new order the Issueing Commissary received, & would have put in Execution yesterday, in Regard of shortening the Rations to the armourers & Saddlers of This State, now working at Allentown, which caused a great uneasiness amongst the Workmen; the where determin'd to leave the Work whereupon after consulting with David Deshler & F^{d} Hagner Sub Lieut^{s} having a good many unrepair'd arms upon hand and received yesterday 400 from Camp out of Repair, & many more dailie expected, by the Letter, the Batt^{l} Quarter Master writes he will want a good quantity in good order, as he expects some Militia every day, and likewise this County Militia, which will be Compleat accoutred; We agreed, and thought it best for the Publick Interest to give an order to James Kennedy, Commissary's of Issues to allow the Former Fatigue Rations untill I could have an answer from your Excellency & the Council, who I don't doubt will take this Matter in Consideration and send me proper Instructions that I may be able to act accordingly. Our departments are now in good order and we

encrease every day, so that I hope we shall have the Different Workmen to compleat our Buysiness.

I am with esteem
Your Excellencys
Most Humble Servant
JOHN WETZEL, Lieutenant.

P. S. Inclosed you have a Copie of the Letter the Commissary produced, & for your Excellencys & the Councils Inspection; the following are the former Rations, Viz^{t}, 1½lb of Beef, 1½lb of Bread 1½ Flower & Vegetables, ½ pint of Rum or Wisky; Wood, Soap & Candles.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Jr. Esq., President of the Executive Council For The State of Pensylvania at Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 17 Feb. 1778.

Whereas, by the resolution of the 14th Instant,* the commissioners appointed by the state of Pensylvania were authorized and directed to purchase and store in magazines 30,000 barrels of flour, on the east side of the Susquehannah; and by a letter since laid before Congress from R. L. Hooper, Nathaniel Falconer and Jonathan Mifflin, Jun^{r}, three of the superintendants appointed by the board of war, in pursuance of a resolve of the 15 Jan'y last, it appears that the said superintendants are making contracts for executing the business intrusted with the said commissioners, contrary to the intentions of Congress, expressed in their said resolutions.

And whereas it also appears by the aforesaid letter that the above named superintendants, without any authority, in direct violation of the laws of Pensylvania, and contrary to the instructions given by the board of war, have presumed to fix and ascertain the prices of several articles wanted in the army much higher than fixed by law in the state, directing the quarter masters to govern themselves by such illegal rates; therefore,

Resolved, That the board of war be directed immediately to recal and suspend the said R. L. Hooper, Nathaniel Falconer and Jonathan Mifflin, who are required to lay before Congress their proceedings and accounts.

Extract from the minutes.
CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* See page 256.

General Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Feb'y 17th, 1778.

Sir,

My Colleague, Mr. James Smith, obtained a warrant for 300,000 Dollars, to be remitted to you for the purchase of Provisions, reserving, as he informs me 52,000, which he has put into the hands of Commissioners for this County and Cumberland. The low state of the Treasury has occasioned since a division of the 300,000 D^{rs}, one half to the Board of War & Ordinance and the other half for this State, both being for the same purposes, the Bal^{e} of your moiety, viz., 98,000, will, I expect, be ready this day, to go under the care of some one of the members of Assembly who may be passing thro. As Mr. Smith undertook this business in my absence, being at the Treasury, when the Grant obtained, I shall leave the whole to his management. I shall urge forward the supplies of cash as you shall from time to time advise to be necessary; and I beseech Council not to put too much confidence in any Servant under them, lest some wheel in the machine should rust or clog, to the injury of the cause, which now labours in the article of provisions. The exuberant care of the late board of war in providing superintendants over the Commissioners in the respective Counties, and the delegecy of their choice, has occasioned a good deal of perplexity. Last evening a modest request came before Congress to indemnify the superintendants, in violation of the provision act, in having given more than the stipulated prices, this is refered with the depositions concerning Mr. Hooper to a Committee. You will see by the resolve of last Saturday that a new System has been contrived to accommodate the appointment of superintendants to the late law of the state, and to prevent any interference, Mr. Smith informs me he will transmit the system which prevents me. I beg Council will urge the respective Commissioners to the purchase of live stock, as to flour I have no fear of a plentiful supply, but through the lack of meat provisions our army is even now greatly distressed, and without the most vigorous exertions I fear the consequence. If any thing prevents our Capital being speedily regained it will be the want of provisions. Virginia is ready to supply 5000 Volunteers and N. Carolina as many, with their Governor to march at their head, besides their Quota of Continental Troops; but they cannot be called for without provisions, therefore let me beseech Council to strain every nerve of exertion, and make timely applycation to Congress for Cash from time to time. Next to the want of provisions there is no one thing so distressing to our publick officers as the want of the aid of Mr. Rittenhouse, on whom the Treasury has depended for a little work in his way, to help forward a speedy emission, which is always most necessary at this season, but especially so on account of

the enormous prices of every article to supply the army. I have urged his coming forward again & again, hitherto in vain, therefore I beg the interposition of Council, and that that Gentleman will be entreated not to delay his coming here a moment longer. With respectful salutations to Council.

I am, Sir,

Y^r^ most ob^t^,

Hum^e^ Serv^t^,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos. Wharton, President.

President Wharton to Gen. Washington, 1778.

Lancaster, 17^th^ Febru'y, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honor to write to your Excellency on the 13^h^ Inst^, & have since recd. your favour of the 12^th^.*

It is with some concern that I find you obliged to remind Council of the stipulation made by Gen^l^ Armstrong. You may be assured that on the day of last, orders were sent out for the immediate march of two Classes of the Militia of York, Cumberland & Northampton Counties; & a Class of Numberland conditionally. The three first, tho' substitutes are laid aside, will probably produce 1500 men. Their arrival has been, I am sensible, too late, for which several reasons may be assigned. The order to the Lieu^t^ of Northampton, tho' sent by a careful man, was strangely delayed, till he had left home for this Town; tho' a duplicate was sent to Gen^l^ Potter to forward from his Camp. The very uncommonly broken weather, & the difficulty of passing the Susquehanna, threw continued obstacles in the way of the Militia drawn out of York & Cumberland. Some of these were actually weather-bound in Lancaster during weather that forbid all progress. Besides, the inroads of the Indian Enemy prevented the whole detatchment from Northumberland, & part of Cumberland from marching at all. To these obstructions, I beg leave with great regret to mention another, which Council contemplated before Gen^l^ Armstrong acquainted us of the necessity of continuing the Militia in Service. This is, Sir, a great & growing disgust, that is lately become general throughout the Counties to serve in conjunction with the regular Troops. They complain, that because some among them, perhaps the hirelings

* See pages 254, 255

employed as substitutes, have, by flagrant misconduct, shown themselves defective & cowardly, a general undistinguished Censure is cast, & this too in the grossest Terms on the whole of the Militia, by too many of the continental officers & privates. It seems to me, that some Gentl[n] expect too much of untried Militia, drawn out by succession for two months at most. But however the fact may be, your Excellency will see, that this mode of treating new soldiers, to whom experience would afford instruction, is not adapted to improve them in the Military Character. On the other hand, it weakens the exertions of America in the Common Cause, & must produce many of the mischiefs derived to the Royal Army by the idle debates between the natives of the Empire & their German Auxillaries. This, however, is but a part of the Evil rising from this service. In the open Country, where the Militia are strongest, it produces altercation, recrimination & feud. The sourness among the people shows itself dayly in Quarrels; & perhaps the dreadful event that lately took place at the Sign of the *Compass*, on the road from hence to Head Quarters, may be ultimately a sprout of this root. Three of the Country people accused as principals in this melancholly business, have been arrested by the justices, & are now in gaol here, but their examination is not yet finished; so that I am not yet able to be positive.—It is grievous to remark on this irksome subject, before I leave it, that another officer will be ordered for the recruiting service instead of M[r] Hammond,* of the 11[th] Battalion.

Instructions are made out for the Gentlemen sent up by y[r] Ex[y] for the recruiting business, & they will issue forth without delay. But four More seem necessary for Philad[a] County, & two for Bucks, after distributing the officers already selected. Inclosed I send Copies of these Instructions, with blanks for the names of such as you may appoint. This I beg y[r] Excellency to refer to your Secretary, because it will save the Officers to be appointed to this service the trouble of a journey hither & back again.

The cloathing mentioned in my last, amounting to upwards of three hundred coats & vests; about two hundred pair of Leather breeches, upwards of eighty Overalls, &c. are now putting up; they will be directed for 3rd, 6th, 9th & 12th Penns[a] Battalions—the 13th Penns[a] Battalion I hope will be otherwise supplied—the remainder of the cloathing is making up as fast as possible.

Indorsed.

To his Excellency, Gen[l] Washington.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 446.

James Young to Timothy Matlack, 1778.

Reading, 18th Febr'y, 1778.

Sir,

By the Inclosed letters you will be a judge of their importance, & not knowing how to send them to the Deputy Waggon Master without great expence to the State, by seperate Expresses, for which I have no Authority, I must beg leave to trouble you with them, to forward them as you think proper. Expresses, I shall have frequent occasion for & beg Council will enable me to hire them when wanted, horse for myself, &c.

The Waggons from Northampton are arrived at Camp, to my great satisfaction, & hope to relieve their Wants in future, as nothing shall be wanting on my part. This, by Mr Read, saves the Expence of an Express; being very Respectfully,

Sir,

Your very Humbe
& Obdt Sert,

JAs YOUNG.

This Letter contained Orders to Thompson of Berks, Bayly of Lancaster, Boyd of Chester, & Moore of Philads; they mention Orders being issued for

Lancaster	44
Chester	44
Berks	32
Bucks	32
Philads	14
Northn	14

Directed,

On Public Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favour'd by Jas Read, Esqr.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Duer to Col. F. L. Lee, in Congress, Feb. 19. 1778.

"I have this day seen a letter from Gen'l Gates, as President of the Board of War, directing General Mifflin to inform the Commissioners appointed by the board to superintend the purchasing provisions, &c., that Congress had determined that the measures pursued by the State of Pennsylvania were adequate to the supply of the Army on the east side of Susquehannah, and had therefore directed that they

no longer proceed on that business, but lay all their accounts, &c., before Congress. Just when the resolution came to hand, a considerably Supply of provisions & forage was forwarding to head quarters by the persons appointed by the Board of War, & a great number of teams impressed for this purpose. The order of Congress has put a stop to the whole, so that all prospect of keeping the Army together is now at an end, and you may expect every moment to hear of its dissolution. The former letter I sent you from Gen'l Washington, painted to you their critical Situation; since that time about 1000 barrels of flour have been sent down by water from this place by Col. Bird. But the river is now fallen, & there is no probability of procuring an adequate number of teams in time agreeable to the laws of this State.

This you may declare to Congress as a fact, that warrants have been out agreeable to the laws of Pennsylvania for a month past, for procuring teams for the use of the Army, & that none have as yet been procured in that way, the consequence of which is, that all the horses in the Army are now furnished for forage, and a mutiny has already arisen for want of a timely supply of provisions. It will be more than we have a right to expect, when the Army disbands, which I think in a few days it must, if a great part dont join the enemy. A few nights ago thirteen of the Artillery, (the best corps in the Service) twelve of whom were Serjeants, deserted in a body to the enemy. This you may rely on as fact."

Gen. Washington to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Valley Forge, Feb'y the 19th, 1778.

Sir,

For reasons that will be obvious to you it is thought, the publication of the inclosed address,* may answer valuable ends, and I beg leave to submit to you, whether it may not serve to increase its effect, if it were ushered into the papers of your State, with a recommendatory line from yourself. If you should suppose there will be any impropriety in this, you will be pleased notwithstanding to commit the address itself to the printer.

I was duly honored with your Letter of the 13th Inst. I shall give every attention in my power that the five Regiments may be supplied out of the Cloathing which first comes to hand, as you wish, and if it proves insufficient, will try to keep them easy till a further provision can be made.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most Obd^{t} Servant,
G^{o}: WASHINGTON.

P. S. Address in letter to Mr. Dunlap.
His Excellency Governor Wharton.

* See this address and a proclamation with it by the Executive, in Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 429.

Council to Comm'rs for Collecting Provisions, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, February 19, 1778.

Congress, by a Resolve of the 14th Inst.,* have ordered that the Monies for the payment of Provisions, Forage, &c., &c, to be purchased by Commissioners appointed by a Law of this State, for the use of the Army, shall go thro' the hands of Council. As you are nominated for the county of , it becomes necessary for me to mention that Congress have orderd Magazines of Provisions, to be layd up in several parts of this State, which you will see by an extract from said Resolve enclosed.

The present situation of the Army makes it absolutely necessary, that you & the other Commissioners proceed upon this business with the greatest alacrity possible—not one moment should be lost in procuring and forwarding the Flour to the different places mentioned in the Resolve. You are well acquainted with the situation of the Country, and distance from your County to each place named for the Flour to be Stored at. Your own knowledge, therefore, of these circumstances will instruct you therein. Council have nominated proper persons, whose names are hereto annexed, to attend on the Spott to inspect, receive, Store & to take care of the Provisions, and to issue the same upon the orders of the Board of War. Those Gentlen will, upon your application, acquaint you from time to time with the quantity received in the Stores, so that you may know when the whole is collected. The Council wish that the Farmers should receive their pay as soon as the Provisions & Forage are delivered, or in a very Short time after, so as to prevent any just cause of complaint, I therefore send you by the Bearer — Dollars, and will furnish you with such further Sums upon your application as you may need, not doubting that you will call only when you have a real occasion, as the Treasury at present is low. Council flatter themselves that you have made some progress in this business. Every exertion at this time is expected from this State, when the Enemy has possession of our Capital, and the Army calling aloud for Supplies of every kind. Upon your activity & prudence therefore much depends, for unless the Troops are well Supplyd with Provisions, it is not reasonable to suppose they will keep the Field. Cattle of every kind is wanted at Camp; I hope a great number of Hogs can in a short time be collected. The Commissaries of issues depend upon your exertions for supplies, and they *must not* be disappointed—all kinds of live Stock must be collected, as well as forage, and delivered agreeable to the enclosed resolve—that the wants of our distressed Country men may be immediately relieved. For your trouble in this, at present important business, Council are impowered to make you ample satisfaction.

* See page 256.

Lest you should not be provided with the Law in which you are named as a Commissioner, it is here enclosed, and to which I refer you.

By order of Council.

Store keepers appointed by Council:

Lancaster, Col°. Wm. Will.
Reading, Col°. Cowperthwaite.
Bethlehem, Easton, } Robert Trail, Esqr.
Downingstown, Elijah Wood.
Pottsgrove, John Mitchell.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

Lancaster, Feb'y 19, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Your letters of the 16th & 17th, and an enclosed note, have been delivered to Council by William Rowan, Esq^r., together with the sum of One hundred and thirty nine thousand dollars, which I have examined, and by order of Council given him a receipt for. The oppressive load of business which is upon the Council makes it extremely difficult to undertake the business committed to them in this charge, and it is an instance of their great zeal to Serve the Publick cause, that they give immediate attention to it. This mode of doing business has lessened the reputation of the State of Pennsylvania in the eyes of Congress more than any other circumstance, by inducing a wonder what has become of the large sums of money put into the hands of its Councils, and as these Sums have generally fallen greatly Short of answering the intention for which they have been issued, it has occasioned clamours in the people who have had unsatisfied claims. It has also divided their attention, which was wholly due to the intricate & difficult affairs of the State. A future day will shew their cool, firm, steady performance, in a point of view very different from that in which it is now seen, and much to their honour, when the conduct of some of their oppressors will Shrink from the light.

I have the honor to be, &c.

T. M., Sec'y.

To Hn'ble Delegates of Penns^a in Congress.

Col. Kirkbride to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Bordenton, 20th Feb., 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellencys Letters of the 13th Inst. came to hand—one on Tuesday last, the other of this date, accompany'd by those of the Secretary of the 12th Inst.

The Constant Alarmes we have had in the Lower part of Bucks County for some days past, has Intirely thrown us out of our Business, & put it out of our power to Act in the Civil line.

Before this can reach your Excellency, you will no doubt have the particulars more full than I am able at present to give, but our Acct* this evening is that the Enemy have Retreat'd from Galloways place, & some other parts of the neighborhood, towards the City, after capturing many of our friends, and taking away large quantity of Forrage, &c.

I can Inform your Excellency that Col. Coats has not left any part of his money in my hands, nor do I believe he had much in his own, but was Chiefly in the hands of the Sub-Lieuts. and Collectors, & I make no doubt to the amount he mentions; and, in consequence of your Excel* Orders, am taken the most direct measure I can to Collect it from the persons whose hands it's in, in Order to dispose of it agreeable to Direction.

I wrote your Excellency some days ago by two opportunitys, & hope they have got safe to hand.

And be assur'd I will do every thing in my power strictly to comply with your Excellencys Commands; and

I have the Hon* to be your Excel*

Most Obedient Humb. Serv*.

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

On Public Business—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqs., President of the State Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Memorial of Recruiting Officers to Council, 1778.

To the Honourable the Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

We the subscribers, in Behalf of the Officers Order'd on the Recruiting service from the said State, Beg leave to remark to the Council a Great Inconvenience under which we labour in entering on that service, agreeable to the Instructions we have Received from them.

* Captured, see page 261.

According to those Instructions, we are allow'd but the trifling sum of three Pounds for each Recruit. It must be perceptable to every person who has been on that duty, that that sum is nothing equal to the Expence that must Necessarily Accrue.

Yet the Zeal for the good of our Country, which first induced us to take the Field we flatter ourselves still continue, and thro' that Motive we are determined to exert ourselves in that duty until a proper Representation of our Grievance may be laid before the Legislative Power of this State, and their determination taken.

We therefore Beg the Council wou'd represent the matter to that Body, & transmit to us their proceedings by the first Opportunity, at our different Rendezvous, making no doubt that all reasonable expences will be allowed us.

ALEX'R PATTERSON, Capt. 12 P. Regt.
EDWARD SCULL, Capt^{n} 4th P. Regt.
WM. WILSON, Capt. 1st P. Regt.

Lancaster, Feb'y 18th, 1778.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, Feb'y 20th 1778.

Sir,

By Resolve of Congress of the 14th Instant, the Board were directed to lay up twenty thousand barrells of Flour in addition to that which you & the Honorable Council have been pleased to take the trouble of procuring on the east side of the Sasquahanna. The Board were farther authorised to instruct the Commissioners appointed by a Law of the State, in their Purchases on the West Side of the River. They have in consequence of this Authority ordered the Flour to be purchased by two of the Superintendants they have appointed under a former Resolution, & have instructed the Commissioners appointed by the Law of the State to confine their purchases to provisions of the Meat Kind & Forage. This was done to prevent Confusion or Clashing. As the Resolution of Congress directs the Board to keep up a correspondence with your Excellency and the Hon. Council, I am to express their Wishes to co-operate in every Measure the Service requires. The Board will be happy to be informed whether your judgment of the Prices fixed by the Hon. the Assembly is that they shall be paid on the Delivery of the articles at the Magazines or at the places where they are purchased, as they

would wish to preserve an Uniformity in the Proceedings of the Purchasers on both sides the River.

I have the Honor to be

With great Respect

Your obed. Servt.

HORATIO GATES, President.

Directed

On public service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

JAMES YOUNG TO SECRETARY MATLACK, 1778,[1]

Reading, 21 Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

This day Mr. Leonard Reed, Waggon Master* for this County, Inform'd me that he found the business too much for him, for the following reasons: first, that he lived at the extreme end of the County, in Tulpohakin, & his Wife in a very bad state of health. 2[d] That he can neither write nor read English, and therefore declined further acting; I requested him to go through with the present business of the lists of waggons and expiditing the Waggons order'd out, & then to go to Council & resign his Commission, which he declined. I have therefore requested Coll. Henry Holler, of this town, to undertake the business until such time as the Hon[ble] Council shall think proper to appoint him or some other person to that office, that the business which is now very urgent may not be delayed, which you will please to acquaint Council of and inform me of their determination.

The new regulation of our Commissioners appointed by act of Assembly to lay in Magazines, &c., has occasioned a small interruption of loading the Waggons, as the former superintendants have refused me the least intelligence of the loadings they informed me was provided; but a few days will put all things in their proper Channel If some people are dissapointed. I have frequent occasions to hire express & a horse for myself, also the assistance of a Clerk, which will be absolutely wanted, especially when the list of Waggons are transmitted to me, but have not authority from the Honbl. Council nor cash to pay expresses, &c.

I am,

Sir,

Your very Obedt. Humbl. Servt.

JAS. YOUNG, W. M. G.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 428,

P.S. 3 O'clock P. M. I have this moment an express from Head Quarters respecting the very great distress of the army for want of Waggons & Forrage, I am unhappy till they are supplied. Pray forward the inclosed by express.

Copy from Coll. Lutterloh, Vally forge, Feb. 20, 1778.

Sir,

I received this morning your favour & acquainted the Hon'ble Committee of Congress with the contents, as your Waggons come in but slow into the Camp, and our distress for Waggons is very great (as you will see by the inclosed note,) I beg you will loose not a moment's time to get us supplyed, I do not know what to do. In the neighbourhood of the Camp are no Waggons, all are worn out and our own Teams cannot go along being so worked down. I beg for God's sake you will assist us, and let them bring forrage & Commissary stores as I mentioned before. You must send Express again and hurry them on. Tho' the letters mentioned 30, Teams but yet 20 only arrived. Consider the Distress of the army and loose not a moment to assist the Public Service.

I am, yours, &c.,

LUTTERLOH.

Send the order back.

The Committee ordered me to send this express and request this Exertion of you.

Copy of the order above mentioned.

Dr Sir,

You are hereby authorised by order of his Excellency General Washington, to impress any number of Waggons you stand in need of in the neighbourhood of the Camp. You don't say what number you expect in to-morrow. General Green & Coll. Biddle write, that they meet with the greatest difficulty in foraging for want of Waggons. The General begs of you to give them all the assistance you can. For God's sake, my dear Sir, exert yourself upon this occasion, our distress is infinite.

Yours,

A. HAMILTON, A. D. C.

To Coll. Lutterloh.

I have transcribed the above Copys that you may be a better judge of the wants of the army.

Yours,

J. Y.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

On Public service J. Young, W. M. G.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York town, 21st Feb'ry, 1778.

Sir,

I troubled your Excellency with a Letter on the 10th Inst.,* by the hand of Mons'r Dubuysson, & on the 19th, by the Reverend Doct'r Witherspoon, I received a packet containing six Copies of Acts of Congress, of the 5th & 6th Inst, for establishing divers regulations in the Civil & Military lines of the Army & for appointing Auditors of Army accounts, &c., these may be added to several preceeding dispatches which I have had the honor of transmitting to YourExcellency & which remain unacknowledged.

Your Excellency will be pleased to receive in company with this, an act of Congress of the present date, earnestly recommending to the Executive Council of this State to exert the whole power of the State to relieve the Army under General Washington, now reduced almost to the very last extremity from a want of provisions of Flesh & Forage, & referring to a letter from the General of the 15th Inst., to Rob't Hooper & others, & to an extract of a Letter from M'r Duer to Coll. Lee of the 19th, Copy of the Said Letter together with the extract, your Excellency will find with the other paper.

I dare not insult your Excellency & the Honorable Council by urging that not a moment should be lost, or, that on your exertions rest the safety of our Union & Independency, all attempts to such incitements, I am persuaded, are equally unseasonable & unnecessary. I have therefore only to conclude, wishing success to your Excellency's Orders & endeavours, & repeating that I am,

With very great Respect,
Sir,
Your obedient &
Most Humble Servant
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

On public Service, Henry Laurens. His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

* See pages 249, 276.

Col. Walter Stewart to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Febʳ 21st, 1778.

Sir,

I am much concern'd to Inform your Excellency that an Express arrived in Camp yesterday afternoon, with the disagreeable news of a party of Light Horse belonging to the Enemy, consisting of about Forty, pushed up to Newtown, Bucks County, and took my Major, with a small party of men, Prisoners, and all the cloathing I had laid up there for my Regiment. My hopes of getting my Regiment genteelly and well cloathed this campaigne are vanish'd, unless your Excellency & the Council will assist me in it, which I must Intreat in the strongest manner. I really hop'd sir, my own activity would have saved you this trouble, but 'tis my misfortune to find all my good intentions frustrated by this most unlucky blow. My poor fellows are in a most deplorable situation at present, scarcely a shirt to one of their Backs, & equally distress'd for the other necessarys; but they bear it patiently, and however they may suffer for the want, I must say, I would rather wait a few weeks untill I could get all their cloathing together.

I now send Mr. Howel 22 ℔ Thread; 57 Groce Coat, & 42 Groce Vest Buttons; 326⅔ yards Tow linin; 7 p'es Shalloon, & 4 p'es blue Broad cloth, Cont'g, 63½ yards (trimmings I was sending to New town for the Cloths); these things I must request he will make the best use of in his power for my men; they are sufficient for the trimming of 300 suits cloathes, which I could wish to be blue and red if possible, as I know White cannot now be obtained.

As I write Mr. Howel on the subject, I shall not trouble your Excellency farther, well knowing every exertion is now making use of by the Council to have their Troops well cloathed.

I am with great respect
and Esteem, your
Excellencys most
obed't hu'ble serv't,

WALTER STEWART,
Col. 13th P. Reg't.

New town is 24 miles from Philad'a, and the Militia are posted at Bustle Town, which makes this a most daring attempt on their side, and an unfortunate one on mine.

W. S.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., at Lancaster

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 21st Feb^{y}, 1778.

A letter from general Washington to Robert L. Hooper, Nathaniel Falconer, & Jonathan Mifflin, was laid before Congress & read, also an extract of a letter from Mr. Duer to Mr. Lee* were read.

Ordered, That copies of the same be sent by express to the executive council of Pennsylvania, & that it be most earnestly recommended to them to exert the whole powers of the State in providing & forwarding to the army, by every possible means, supplies of provisions, especially of the meat kind, & forage, with the utmost dispatch.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec^{y}

William Russel to Board of War, 1778.

To the Honourable Board of War, at York Town, Feb'y 21st, 1778.

The Petition of William Russel, Ensign in Cap^{t}. Butler's Company, the third Pennsylvania Regiment,

Most humbly sheweth:

That your Petitioner was one of the first that entered into the Continental Service at the beginning of the War, in which he continued untill he was wounded in the Battle at Brandywine, where he lost his Legg. That some time after the Petitioner's Brother Officers were promoted, according to their several Ranks, your Petit^{r} at the same time having been in the Hospital and omitted in the promotion. That your Petitioner most humbly conceives himself entitled to the Rank of Lieutenant.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly Prays your Honours to take his case into consideration, and to allow him Lieutenants Pay.

And your Petit'r, as in duty bound, shall pray, &c.

WM. RUSSEL.

* See page 276.

Gen. Roberdeau to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Feb'y 23d, 1778.

Sir,

The papers by you transmitted to the Board of War were refered to Congress, read and committed to be returned; accordingly I do myself the honor of handing them to you, and hope the violators of the Laws of the State will be brought to condign punishment. I am with respectful Salutations to the Hon^ble^ Council,

Sir, y^r^ most ob^t^
& very humb. Serv^t^.

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, jun^r^., Esq^r^., President of the State of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Letter (Copy.) Capt. Edwd Scull &c., to General Washington, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

Inclosed we send you a Copy of the instructions we received from the Executive Council for the recruiting Service, and beg leave to remark the Grievance they labour under in the sum allowed us for that Service being nothing equal to the expence which must necessarily accrue.

The legislative Body are to meet in a few days, untill that time we shall proceed in our duty and then intend remonstrating them on the occasion.

We would beg your Excellency to order us how to proceed in Case our Greivance should not be redressed as it is impossible, we can subsist ourselves on so trifling an allowance.

Col. Stewart will be able to give your Excellency a State of the matter.

EDWARD SCULL, Cap^t^ 4th P. Reg^t^.
ALX. PATTERSON, Cap^t^ 12th P. Reg^t^.
WM. WILSON, Cap^t^ 1st P. Reg^t^.

Signed in behalf of the officers from the State of Pennsylvania ordered on the recruiting Service.*

(Copy.)

* See page 280.

Gen. Washington, Feby 23, 1778.

Head Quarters Valley Forge, 23d Febr 1778.

Gentlemen,

I recd yours of the 18th* from Lancaster, in behalf of yourselves and others appointed to superintend the recruiting Service.

If upon the representation which you intend to make to the Assembly when they meet, you do not get such an allowance as will defray your necessary Expences, it cannot be expected that you will continue upon a service, by which you will be losers. The Bounty of eight dollars for each Recruit would in my opinion be fully sufficient if there was any chance of the Business going on with success. But I fear it will not upon the terms held forth by the State.

I am Gentn

Yr most obt Servt

Go WASHINGTON.

Directed,

On public Service.

To Captains Scull, Patterson and Wilson, at Lancaster.

Col. J. Morgan to President Wharton, 1778.

Reading, February 23d, 1778.

Sir,

There are several Accounts in Berks County unpaid. The people Complain for want of Payment.

First. The Militia officers whose tours were not to go to Camp with the different Classes of their Companies, Lost many days in Summoning and Collecting their men, and bringing them to the place of General Rendezvous.

Second. In June last there were a number of Militia Collected by order of his Excellency the President, and not being wanted were after several days dismist.

Third. How the Waggons that transported the baggage of the Militia to Camp are to be paid?

Fourth. What Wages Should be allowed to the Almoners for their receiving and paying monies to the poor Militia Families?

Fifth. The Militia in General Complain for want of payment, and

*See the preceeding

some of them refuse to deliver up their Arms, Accoutrements and Blankets untill they receive their monthly Wages.

These are Queries which I should be glad your Excellency would take notice of, and give such direction as you may think proper, as I conceive the militia Law is Silent in respect to them.

I am with great respect,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq.

Answer. (Indorsed.)

1st. The Lieutenants are to pay for such services as hath been performed by any officer who has been ordered to assist the Lieutenant according to law. See law passed 30 Dec^{r}, 1777.

2nd. Militia ordered into service at any time are to be paid for the time which they shall have served.

3rd. Waggon hire is to be paid by the Quarter Master Gen^{l} or his Deputy.

4th. There seems to be no distinction on this head in the law, and therefore it seems reasonable that the Lieutenant should allow such moderate pay as may be adequate to his time & trouble.

5. The arms of the Militia must be immediately returned. Their pay will be provided for as soon as posssble.

T. M., Sec'y.

Lancaster, Feb'y 26, 1778.

James Young to Secretary Matlack, 1778.

Reading 23^{d} Feb^{ry}, 1778.

Sir,

I beg leave to represent to the Hon^{ble} Council the difficulties I meet with in assisting the army with Waggons as I wish to do in this their Want. On the 18th Inst^{t}, Col^{l} Jonathan Mifflin, one of the Superintendants appointed by the Board of War to lay up the Magazines, applyed to me that as the Waggons of this County did

not come in so quick as was necessary to supply the army, & that they, the superintendants, had provided loading for fifty Waggons, & therefore requested a number should be immediately impressed, I directly applyed to Henry Crest, Esq^{r}, for a press Warrant for twenty Waggons nearest this town. On the 20th a Number of them were brought here; I order'd the Waggoners to apply to Col^{l} Mifflin for their loading. He wrote me that he had the night before received a letter from Gen^{l} Gates informing him that the Congress had resolved that the Commissioners appointed by the Assembly of this State were sufficient to lay up the Magazines to be formed on the East side of Susquehanna, & that the superintendants be directed to act no longer; he would therefore transfer the business over to Mess^{rs} Lesher & Eckert, & that I would please to order the Teams impress'd by M^{r} Crest's Warrant as I should think proper, as he could take no further direction in the matter. I then requested M^{r} Reed, W. M., & M^{r} Lesher, one of the Commissioners, to Wait on Coll^{l} Mifflin & request he would inform them where the loadings were that was provided for those Waggons; they returned to me & told me the only answer he was pleased to give them was that he had no further to do with the Matter.

So circumstanced I was under the disagreeable necessity to order the impress'd Waggons to be discharged, and wait until the Commissioners should receive their instructions, and the Waggons ordered out by Law should come in. The Resignation of M^{r} Reed,* W. M., has also impeded the service; one of his deputies Just now informs me that the Waggoners in Heidleberg township, order'd out according to order of Council, refuse to go: I have therefore directed him to take out press Warrants. These Circumstances extreamly retard the service on this pressing occasion.

I am

with great Respect Sir,

your very Humble Serv^{t},

JAS. YOUNG.†

P. S. Be kind enough to send me a few Copys of the Waggon Law. I have receiv'd your favour of the 20th Inst.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}, Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

On Public Service.

Favour'd p^{r} the Hon^{ble} Jacob Morgan, Jun^{r}, Esq^{r}.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 428.

† See page 282.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 23d Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor of yours of the 17th inst.* The militia from the Westward, who had been detained by the badness of the weather, have arrived at Genl. Lacey's Camp, and those from Northampton have, I hope, come in by this time. Their presence had become exceedingly necessary, as the insolence of the disaffected in Philadelphia and Bucks Counties had arisen to a very alarming Height. They have seized and carried off a number of respectable inhabitants in those Counties, and such officers of the Army as fell in their way, among others, Major Murray, of the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment, who was at Newtown with his family. What adds to the misfortune is, that they carried off near 2000 y^ds^ of Cloth which had been collected in the County, and was making up for the Regiment. In the last Paragraph of your letter you say that the Cloathing coming to Camp is for the 3^d^, 6^th^, 9^th^, and 12^th^ Regiments,† as you expected that the 13^th^ would be otherwise supplied. You probably had the Cloth in Newtown in View when you wrote, but that being lost, you will undoubtedly make proper provision for that Regiment.

I am exceedingly sorry to hear that a difference between the Officers and Men of the Continental Troops and those of the Militia should damp the exertions of the latter. It has been my constant endeavour, since I have had the honor to command the Forces of the United States, to prevent all animosities and Jealousies between the Troops of different States, whether Regular or Militia, by exercising the most impartial line of conduct towards all. I very well know that except there is a mutual Confidence and good understanding between all the component parts of an army, that the Service must be manifestly injured, and therefore you may depend that I will take particular care when the Army takes the Field in the Spring, and when we shall more than probable be obliged to call upon the Militia to act in conjunction with us, to endeavour to remove the causes of complaint.

I hope the unhappy dispute that arose at the Sign of the Compass, between a few Officers of the Continental Army and the Militia, will rather be looked upon as an accidental matter, than as the effect of a general and fixed hatred between those two Bodies of Men embarked in the same Cause, and who ought to afford a mutual support to each other, and to turn their Arms against the common Enemy, rather than upon one another. I also hope that all prejudice upon

* See page 274.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 418.

the part of the Country may be laid aside upon this occasion, and the most impartial enquiry made into this matter.

Inclosed you have a Copy of a representation sent to me by Captains Scull, Patterson, & Wilson,* in behalf of themselves and the officers sent to superintend the recruiting Service. As they mean to address the legislature upon the same subject, I take it for granted that they will explain themselves more fully, and point out the reasons for demanding a greater Sum than allowed in the recruiting instructions. As the expence of riding about the Country at this time is very heavy and certain, and the chance of procuring Recruits very uncertain, perhaps they may think a reasonable allowance ℔ day a more equitable mode.

I shall have another officer appointed in the room of Lieu^{t} Hammond, and four more for the County of Philada., and two for the County of Bucks. The blank Instructions shall be properly filled up for them.

I have the Honor to be

Sir,

your most ob^{t} Serv^{t}.†

Council to J. B. Smith, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, Feb'y 23, 1778.

Sir,

The General Assembly of representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania, have requested to be furnished with the following papers, viz^{t}.‡

The instructions of the Board of War to their Superintendants of Provisions.

The Plan laid down by the Superintendants for the purchase, &c. of Provisions.

The Instructions for the Millers, dated 11 Jan'y, 1778.

A Letter from the Superintendants to the Board of War, dated Feb'y 11, 1778.

A Letter dated Feb'y 12, 1778, signed R. L. Hooper, Deputy Q^{r} M^{r} General, to the Purchasers under the Superintendants.

We therefore request that you will procure copies of them, and forward them to Council as early as possible, by express, if no im-

* See page 287.

† Not signed, but in the handwriting of his other letters which are.

‡ See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 425.

mediate safe opportunity shall offer. These papers are of great importance to the State, and might be furnished without a moment's delay.*

To the Hon'ble J. B. Smith, Esqr.

MAJOR GEN. JOHN ARMSTRONG TO PRES. WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 23d Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

As at present there appears to be a Scarcity of the important article of Lead, and it's certain a Mr. Harman Husbands, now a member of Assembly for our State, has some knowledge of a Lead Mine, situate in a certain Tract of Land not far from Franks Town, formerly surveyed for the use of the Proprietary Family.

General Gates, President of the Board of War, having signified his earnest desire to see & converse with Mr. Husbands on the subject of the Mine, and being greatly hurried with business, I have at his instance undertaken the present line, that you wou'd please to use y^r^ influence with the House of Assembly, and with Mr. Husbands, that he, as soon as possible, may be spared to consult with the Board of War, on the best measures for making a tryal of & deriving an early supply from that source.

The General is of Opinion with me, that the Mine ought or may at least for the present be seized by, and belong to the State, and that private persons who without right may have sat down on that reserved Tract, shou'd neither prevent the present use of the Lead, nor be admitted to make a monopoly of the Mine. I'm of opinion that a few faithful Labourers may be sufficient to make the experiment, and that the Lieut. of the County, or some other good Man, may be serviceable in introduceing the business.

I cannot doubt the Compliance of the honorable Assembly & Council.

And am, Sir, with great respect,

Yr Excellencys most

Obed^t^ humb^l^ Serv^t^.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. It may not be improper that a Sumary consideration be first taken whether the State will make the effort above, or leave it to the Conduct of the Board of War, that at any rate the Salutary

* See answer with the papers, Feb. 26, p. 303.

effects, if any, may be gain'd to the publick. The Water Carriage is a great thing—Query, whether the Oar shou'd be run into portable bars at the Bank, or at Middleton ?

J. A.

Directed,

On the Public Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Pennl^a, Lancaster.

Circular of Council to Comm'rs, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, Feb'y 24, 1778.

Sir,

The most pressing applications are hourly made to Council for a Supply of Provisions for the army. You are therefore hereby strictly charged and enjoined to exert every power you possess, to procure supplies as fast as possible. You are not to regard any orders that may be given to you by any persons whatsoever contrary hereto, and you are to forward to Camp, with all possible expedition, all the neat Cattle, Swine, Beef, Pork & forage you can procure. You are also hereby empowered to hire such assistants as you may find necessary for this purpose, as the present occasion is extremely urgent.

To the Commissioners.

Arch'd M'Clean to President Wharton, 1778.

York, February 24th, 1778.

May it please Your Excellency,

I have the Pleasure to inform the Council, That we have at length been enabled to open and hold a Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace and of the Common Pleas at this place, Notwithstanding the long Backwardness of a great number of the Inhabitants of this County to lend their Aid, or yield their concurring Countenance to the producing such an Event; And I do with pleasure inform you, That we had a Respectable Bench of Justices, and also able and Reputable Juries, both Grand and Petit.

The Season of the Court being very Rigorous, and the Difficulty of having Accommodations for People from the Country, prevented a Considerable Number of the Publick House keepers from applying, but I have assurances from divers, That they will apply at what is called the Constables Court.

Herewith I have transmitted the Recommendations of those who have applied and have been Recommended, excepting some who applied only for Permits for Liberty to Sell Beer and Cyder, which are not made out. I would acquaint the Council, That as the Petitioners could not be accommodated in Town, after delivering their several Petitions, they returned immediately home, which prevented me from having the Opportunity of taking their Respective Bonds, &c^{a}. For which I have appointed them to come in at the Twenty fifth of Next month, and then give Bond and Receive their Licences.

Whereupon if Council See Cause to Send unto me a Sufficient Number of Licences in Blanks, I will fill them up as called for, and take the requisite Security and Collect the Fees to Government, as Speedily as the present State of Affairs will admit of. I would also beg of Council to be instructed in the Mode of Procedure adopted in Lancaster County, in Regard to granting Permits under the Law to prevent Fore-Stalling and Regrating, also the Form of the said Permits.

I am, may it please Your Excellency,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ARCH'D M'CLEAN.

P. S. As before hinted, I expect a Number of Persons more will petition Shortly, therefore Request that an Extra Number of Blanks may be Sent over.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}., Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council, at Lancaster.

Favoured by Michael Hahn, Esq^{r}.

Gen. Roberdeau to Assembly, 1778.

York Town, Feb'y 21st, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor to address my Constituents, the Representatives of this State now assembled, on Subjects the most distressing and alarming, the deficiencies in the Commissaries and Quartermasters departments, which threaten the dispersion of our Army and all the horrid train of Evils consequent to this State more immediately, and to the common cause more general in its baneful influence. The Letters and resolves of Congress ordered to be forwarded, makes a particular discant on the distresses of our army unnecessary from me. I have only to assure the Hon'ble House that under God the Salvation of our Cause now depends on you, as from your Situation

timely supplies of provisions, especially meat, of forage and Waggons, and *immediate* conveyance can only be expected, and without the most vigorous exertions you may depend the army will disperse, nothing but indispensable duty would extort a Secret which might, by being divulged, prove ruinous; therefore what is my duty, is equally the duty of your Hon'ble House, now the fact is disclosed, to impose the most enviolable restraint on yourselves, that our Enemies may not triumph in our Disgrace. Congress will begrudge no expence attending the execution of your orders, in dependence on which is now the whole trust of Congress for an immediate supply, or in other words, for preventing the most direful distress. It would be impertinent in me to attempt to enforce a Subject so important on your Hon'ble House. Congress have displaced Officers who infringed the Law of the State respecting the prices of Articles; to this Enemies will attribute the Evils we should deprecate, but our cause does not depend on the weak efforts of a few individuals, much less on any restless spirits among us who probably, in the Struggle, mean to overset the freedom of this State. Your endeavours, I trust, will be succeeded.

I am most respectfully, Sir,

Y^r^ most ob^t^ & very humb. Servt.

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.*

P. S. A moments delay may be our ruin, which must apologize for my hasty scrawl, which I have not time to copy or correct.

Directed,

The Hon'ble James M'Lene, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsilvania, at Lancaster.

David Forst to Sec'ry Matlack, 1778.

Camp Cross Roads, Feb. 24, 1778.

Hon^d^ Sir,

I have sent you, according to Order, a Return of the Pennsylvania Militia now under the Command of Brigadier General Lacey, and the times when Entered, and by whom Commanded, from each County Seperate; the Northampton County Militia is not Come yet to Camp, there is two or three Companies of York County Men coming on this way, and Expect them here to Day or to morrow.

I remain your Humb^l^ Serv^t^.

DAVID FORST.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq.

"* Rec'd and read in Ass'y, Feb. 24, 1778, p. m."

RETURN OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA COMMANDED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN LACEY, JUN.

BATTALIONS.		OFFICERS PRESENT.										Non Com.		Rank & File.							
		Commissioned.						Staff.													
WHERE FROM,	COMMANDED BY,	Colonel.	Lieut. Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Quarter Master.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Serjeants.	Drummer & Fifers.	Present for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Total.	Entered.	Month.
York County,	Major Lilly,			1	4	4	4		1	1			11		75	8			4	87	27	January.
Cumb'd County,	Auther Buchanan,	1	1	1	11	18	9	1	1	1	1		48	1	381	10	12	2		405	22	Ditto.
	Total.	1	1	2	15	22	13	1	2	2	1		59	1	456	18	12	2	4	492		

Camp Bucks County
Feb. 24th, A. D. 1778.

DAVID FORST, B. M.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 24th Feb'y, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to Your Excellency the 21st.*

Yesterday, Mr Joseph Simons, of Lancaster, addressed Congress with a Letter—which Your Excellency will find inclosed—meaning, as he has explained, to obtain permission for going within the Enemy's Lines, in order to account with Mr Franks. Congress judged it best to refer this application, for determination, to the Supreme Council of the State; Hence Your Excellency receives the present trouble.

I am, with great Regard
& Respect, Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Humble Servant,
HENRY LAURENS.
President of Congress.

Directed,

On Public Service, Henry Laurens.

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, &c., &c., Lancaster.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1778.

Lancaster, February 25th, 1778.

Sir,

This morning I received a letter from James Young, Esquire, waggon master General of this state, and laid it before Council. I am directed by them to send you the following extract of it, which I suppose will need no comment, viz^{t}:

See his letter of the 23d instant.†

Directed,

To the honble., the Delegates of Pennsylvania, in Congress, and his Excellency, General Washington.

* See page 284. † See page 289.

John Thompson to Col. Clement Biddle, 1778.

Bucks County, Feb. 26th, 1778.

Sir,

I have appointed assistant waggon masters in each Battallion District, according to the act of General assembly, which is five. In our County, one waggon master is Imploy'd in removing militia Store from Allen town to Camp; two other waggon masters is Imploy'd in removing flour from the Mills, Imployd by Colonel Blaine to grind Wheat for the use of the Army, near the enemy's lines, and Pork from Coryall ferry to Camp. The other two waggon masters are so Low down in the County that they Dare not to act in that Department; nor hardly any malitia man Dare to stay at his own house. As to Sending waggons to Camp at this time, it is not in my Power, as all that Can be raised are not sufficient to remove the flour and Pork to Camp in Due time.

I am your obt.
Humble Servant,
JOHN THOMPSON,
W. M. for B. Co.

Directd,

To Colonel Clement Biddle, Esqr, these

{ ℔ favour of
Mr. Joseph Skavim. }

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 26th Febr, 1778.

Whereas it appears to Congress by the copy of a letter from general Washington to general Howe, of the 10th of this month, that he has consented to the proposition of General Howe to the following effect: "That an exchange of all prisoners now in our possession, officer for officer, soldier for soldier, & citizen for citizen, so far as number & rank will apply, be carried into execution as expeditiously as the nature of the case will admit, & without regard to any contreverted point, which might prove an impediment to so desirable an end;"

And Whereas, by a resolution of Congress of the 19th December last, a release of prisoners in the power of these States cannot take place before the account of all provisions & other necessaries which

have been supplied by the public to such prisonors are liquidated & discharged;

And Whereas it is the wish of Congress to accomplish the desirarable purpose of exchanging the prisoners without unnecessary delay;

Resolved, That an express be sent to the several legislatures, or supreme executive authorities of the several States, for such accounts of money, provisions, & other necessaries, which they have supplied to prisoners taken by the United States since the commencement of the war, as have not been already transmitted to Congress; that they be requested to make up the said accounts to the first day of March next, & transmit them as speedily as possible to the commissioners of claims at the board of treasury: That the accounts of each State from New-Hampshire to Virginia inclusively, be sent to the said commissioners on or before the 15th day of April next, & of the other States on or before the first day of June next; & that the respective States sustain the losses which may arise from detaining such accounts longer than the time herein allowed them for rendering the same.

Resolved, That all officers in the department of the quarter-master, paymaster, & cloathier general, & commissaries of provisions & prisoners, the commissioners of accounts, & other officers who may have accounts or charges of money, provisions, or other necessaries in their respective offices, for supplies furnished the said prisoners, be directed to send such accounts to the commissioners of claims at the board of treasury, on or before the 15th day of April next, & that they respectively sustain the losses that may arise from a neglect hereof:

That the commissioners of claims be directed to prepare the said accounts for adjustment without delay; & that no exchange of prisoners be made, until the ballance due thereon to the United States is discharged.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, Feb'y 26th, 1778.

Whereas the well-being & safety of these States require that a powerful army be early brought into the field effectually to oppose & defeat the public enemies thereof; and whereas by the actual invasion of some of the said States, and the local circumstances of others, it would be inexpedient and unreasonable to draw forth from all of them their full proportion of the continental batallions

according to the establishment heretofore settled and apportioned in Congress:

Resolved,

That the several States hereafter named be required forthwith to fill up by drafts from their militia, or in any other way that shall be effectual, their respective batallions of continental troops, according to the following arrangement, viz:

New Hampshire,	3	Pennsylvania,	10
Massachussetts Bay,	15	Delaware,	1
Rhode Island & Providence Plantations.	1	Maryland, including the German Batallions,	8
Connecticut,	8	Virginia,	15
New York,	5	N. Carolina,	9
New Jersey,	4		

That all persons drafted shall serve in the continental batallions of their respective states for the space of nine months from the time they shall respectively appear at the several places of rendezvous hereafter mentioned, unless sooner discharged.

That it be recommended to the several States to appoint officers to superintend the making and forwarding the said drafts, and to direct such superintendants to procure compleat lists of the men drafted, with a description of their persons, their age, stature, places of their abode, & the regiment and company from which they shall have been drafted, and to forward the same to the commissioners hereafter mentioned, who shall transmit an exact copy thereof to the commander in chief.

And to the end the commissioners may be enabled the better to execute their business, and the men drafted, as aforesaid, may be sent to the said places of rendezvous with the greater safety and expedition,

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the several states to require their several militia officers, by whom any men shall have been drafted, to deliver to the said superintendants such descriptive lists of the men by them respectively drafted for the purpose aforesaid; and further, to direct the said superintendants to make similar lists of the men by them, from time to time, sent to the said places of rendezvous, and take receipts for such men upon the said lists from such officers as they shall appoint to conduct them as aforesaid, and forward copies of such lists and receipts to the said commissioners.

That it be recommended to each of the said states to appoint one or more commissioners, to reside at the said places of rendezvous, for the purpose of receiving the drafts of their respective states, and delivering them over to the continental officers, who may be appointed by the commander in chief, there to receive them; and further, to direct their respective commissioners to give receipts for

such drafted men as shall be delivered to them, and make out such descriptive lists, as aforesaid, of the men by them, from time to time, delivered over to such continental officers, and take receipts thereon from them, and transmit copies of such lists and receipts to the commander in chief.

That it be recommended to the several states to make provision for their drafted men upon their march to the said places of rendezvous; and that the states be allowed for subsistence one twenty-fourth part of a dollar p^{r} mile for each man actually marching to the said places of rendezvous, and no more.

Resolved,

That all the drafts from the New England States shall rendezvous at Fishkill, on Hudson's river; those of New York, at Easton, in the state of Pensylvania; those of New Jersey, Pensylvania, Delaware & Maryland, at camp; those of Virginia, at Alexandria and Sheppard's town, in the same State; and those of North Carolina at Pitsylvania court house and Petersburg, in Virginia, unless otherwise directed by the commander in chief.

Resolved,

That every person drafted as aforesaid, who shall supply himself with a good firelock and bayonet, a cartouch box, haversack, or blanket, and shall at the expiration of the term of his service produce to the proper pay-master a certificate from his captain or other commanding officer of his company that he hath been constantly provided therewith, shall receive for the use of his firelock, bayonet, and cartouch box, two dollars, and for the use of his blanket, four dollars, and in a like proportion for any or either of them; and in case any of the said articles shall be lost or rendered useless in the service, without the negligence or fault of the proprietor, he shall be paid the value thereof.

Resolved,

That all persons, in whatever way procured, for supplying the deficiencies in the continental batallions, unless inlisted for three years or during the war, be considered as drafts; and that it be recommended to the several states to exert themselves to procure recruits for their respective continental batallions by inlistments for three years or during the war, & that the drafts from the respective states be discharged in proportion as such recruits from the said states shall join the army.

And whereas experience hath proved that no confidence can be placed in prisoners of war or deserters from the enemy who inlist into the continental army, but many losses and great mischiefs have frequently happened by them: therefore,

Resolved,

That no prisoners of war or deserters from the enemy be inlisted, drafted, or returned to serve in the continental army.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec.

J. B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose copies of sundry papers as directed by your excellency, together with some extracts from the minutes of Congress.*

It would have given me pleasure to have despatched these papers sooner, but, though no time was unnecessarily lost in obtaining the order of Congress, or in applying to the board of war, yet finding the board not able to make out the copies immediately, for want of Clerks, we were some time before we could find a person to do it.

There are other proceedings on the same subject; but from the nature of them presume you have received copies; particularly some resolutions of Congress of 14th Febr Instant.

I have the honor to be
with very great respect
your Excellency's and the
Council's very humble servant,
JONa B. SMITH.

York Town, Febr 26th, 1778.

Directed,

Excellency Thos Wharton, Esq.

Instructions to Millers, 1778.

No. 1.

Reading, January 11, 1778.

Instructions for , Miller.

Whereas, in obedience to the orders and instructions we have received from the hon'ble the board of war, *magazines of provisions* are to be form'd for the use of the army, and we being well assured of your attachment to our righteous cause, do appoint you to purchase & to receive into your mill, and to manufacture for the use of the army until further orders, all the wheat you can possibly collect; for wh purpose you are strictly to observe the following instructions:

First, you are to weigh all the wheat you receive, and to rate sixty pounds of neat wheat equal to a bushel, for which you are to pay twelve shillings.

* See page 292.

2nd. From all those who may refuse to thresh out their grain, and to deliver it to you at the lawful rates, you are empowered to seize it in the straw, and to hire proper persons to thresh it for the use aforesaid (always leaving a proper allowance for the consumption of the family) wh expence and halling you are first to deduct from the amount of the grain, and then to pay the owner the balance.

3dly. You are to keep a book ruled in columns, in which you must enter according to the dates, the persons names from whom you receive the wheat, and the number of bushels; and in a receipt book you are to take receipts for all the money you pay, wh must correspond with your book of entries, wh books you are to produce to one of us as superintendant of the district in which you reside, when required so to do, by all or either of us.

4thly. You are to grind the wheat you receive as usual, boult the meal rich, and produce about 26 gross hundreds of good merchantable flour from every hundred bushels of wheat, which you are to pack in barrels, and are to nail and secure from waste; the surplus you are to pack in barrels also for horse-food, and you are to nail and secure from waste by fixing a lining hoop in the head of every barrel packed with flour and horse-feed; for which you are to be allowed four pence per barrel.

5thly. You are to weigh and tare all the barrels before they are packed.

6thly. You are to weigh all the flour and horse feed when packed, to mark with a marking-iron on the head of each barrel the gross weight of flour and of horse feed, and to keep separate and regular invoices in a book for that purpose; and you are to brand the barrels with your usual brand, and number them regularly from No 1 upwards.

7thly. You are to take receipts in a book to be kept for that purpose, for all the flour and horse feed you deliver out, but you are not to deliver out any flour or horse feed but on special orders in writing from the board of war, the commander in chief, or one or more of us. And whereas it may happen that you may issue horse feed on our orders to carters and waggoners employed by us, you must from time to time measure and strike three bushels of horse feed, weigh each bushel separate and average the neat weight per bushel, which average weight shall be the rule for you to settle by and account for the whole quantity received.

8thly. For receiving, paying, storing in your mill, grinding, boulting, packing, weighing, keeping the accounts and invoices, and delivering, you shall be allowed and paid three pounds ten shillings for every one hundred bushels of wheat ground and issued.

9thly. On every monday you are to make a regular return to , superintendant of your district, of the quantity of wheat

received at your mill, the quantity you have ground and packed, and the quantity you have issued.

10thly. For the better carrying this business into effect, you are to enlist so soon as possible into the continental service two millers, three coopers, and two men to get coopers stuff and hoop-poles to be employed at your mill. They must be enlisted for one year, if not sooner discharged, and shall, as the continental establishment requires, be exempted from all militia duties and fines. You are to contract to pay the cooper and men engaged to provide the coopers stuff at the following rates, viz: For good flour barrel staves per m., allowing 1100 to the 1000, for cutting hoop poles and binding them twenty five in each bundle.

If you cannot procure a sufficient quantity of seasoned stuff for making barrels, all that which shall be cut from green timber must be properly kiln dried before it is used.

You are to hire teams to hall the staves and poles to your mill, for doing which and superintending the workmen, you shall be paid . The coopers stuff and poles being delivered at your mill, you are to contract to pay the coopers for riving, piling, dressing and making the barrels compleat for use, eighteen pence per barrel. For boarding, washing and dieting for the coopers and men employed to procure stuff, you are to be allowed two dollars per week for each man. You are to pay and board the millers and all necessary hands for compleating the business mentioned in the eighth article at your own expence.

11thly. Having provided yourself with a double set of hands, you are to keep your mill grinding constantly day and night, and to use your utmost industry to procure wheat until further orders. You shall from time to time be supply'd with money by drawing orders on or applying in person to the superintendant of your district.

12thly. , superintendant of your district, will visit your mill once a week in person, or by his assistant, and give directions for transporting the flour and horse feed to the magazines, and for building sheds and other conveniencies for storing them, if judged necessary.

13thly. All necessary guards for the security and protection of the magazines will be applied for and set by us.

14thly. It is earnestly recommended to you to keep up the strictest harmony with your brother commissaries, and to avoid all occasion of interfering with them in their proper line of purchase.

No. 2.

In Congress, 15 Janʸ, 1778.

The Committee appointed in addition to the board of war to take into consideration the necessity & propriety of lay'g up magazines of Provisions for the army, brought in a report, which was read & debated, & sundry amendments made, after which it was moved in lieu of the whole,

That the board of war be directed to write immediately to the Presᵗ of the executive Council of the state of Pennsylvania, on the subject of purchasing flour for the army & laying up magazines, & if it should appear that the said state have taken effectual measures for procuring the same that the board of war direct the transportation thereof to the magazines or army, &c—but if such measures have not been taken for that purpose as the board of war may think will be certain & effectual, then the board of war to appoint suitable persons to execute that business. And it passed in the negative.

On consideration of the report,

Resolved, That one or more proper persons be immediately employed by the board of war on the best terms in their power to purchase 30,000 bbˡˢ of flour, or wheat equivalent, & have it ground into flour, & to deposit it as follows:—*

That the commissioners employed to execute this business have full power & authority to imploy all mills, millers, coopers necessary, on the best terms they can, to compleat the said quantity of flour with all possible expedition.

That the Commissioners be impowered to hire or impress waggons sufficient to make the necessary transportation of the flour to the places where it is to be deposited, & to pay the hire of the sᵈ waggons at the same rate paid by the Qʳ Mʳ Genˡ.

That the board of war be impowered to limit the prices to be given for the said wheat & flour, and to give such orders & directions to the commissioners as they shall think proper or necessary from time to time: Provided, that no limitation to be made by the board of war with respect to price shall contravene any acts of the legislature of Pennsylvania, or any of the regulations which may be made hereafter by the convention of committees which is to meet at Newhaven on this 15 day of Janʸ.

That these magazines being established without the interference of the Commissary Gen'l, &c.

That Gen'l Washington be directed to support the commissioners, &c.

That the board of war be impowered to direct sᵈ commissioners to purchase any fat cattle & salted meat they meet with in their

* See page 177.

tours thro' y^e^ Country, on the best terms in their power, & deliver the same to the Commiss^y^ G. &c.

That the board of war enquire of his Excell^y^ Thomas Wharton, Esq., &c., what measures have been taken by the legislature of that state for laying up magazines for the army, and if it should appear to the board after such inquiry that measures for that purpose have been taken adequate to the present critical situation of the army, with respect to supplies, they be authorized & directed to suspend the execution of the whole or such parts of the foregoing resolutions as they shall deem most conducive to the general weal.

Extract from the minutes.

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No. 3.

War Office, 31^st^ January, 1778.

Instructions for general James Ewing, capt. John Byers, Rob^t^ Lettis Hooper, Jon^n^ Mifflin, Rich'd Bache, John Patton, James Read, Nath^l^ Falconer, and Henry Hollingsworth, esq^rs^, Superintendants appointed to purchase flour, wheat, and other articles for the better supply of the army.

Whereas, Congress by a resolve of the 15 of this instant, january, authorized the board of war "immediately to employ one or more persons to purchase on the best terms in their power thirty thousand barrels of flour, or wheat equivalent, and have it ground into flour, and to deposit 12,000 barrels, part thereof, at or near Lancaster, 8000 barrels at or near Reading, 6000 barrels at or near Bethlehem, 2000 barrels at or near Downingtown, and 2000 bb^s^ at or near Pottsgrove."

And whereas, the legislature of the State of Pennsylv^a^ had previously nominated certain persons in several counties of that State to purchase and collect magazines of provisions for the use of the army,

You are therefore, in the execution of your duty as Superintendants to comply with, and observe the following directions:

1^st^ You are to purchase on the best terms and as expeditiously as possible the said quantity of 30,000 barrels of flour, or wheat equivalent to produce it, and deposit the same agreeable to the directions in the resolve of Congress above recited.

You are empowered to instruct and direct the commissioners appointed by the State of Penn^a^, in their purchases of wheat, flour, &c., and your orders properly communicated they are desired to obey.

You are authorized to purchase any pork, fat cattle, or Salted

meat within your respective districts, and deliver the same to the commissary general of issues or his deputies, taking receipts for the quantity delivered.

You will determine what mills and other buildings within your districts may be most proper for magazines and may hire or impress the same.

You will employ persons to make or to purchase flour casks.

If any commissioner or commissioners, appointed by the legislature of Pennsylvania, refuse or neglect, to execute the trust reposed in him or them, you may appoint proper persons to do this business so neglected or refused.

If the business intrusted to you and the commissioners shall appear to you to require more assistance than is provided by the act of assembly of Penna., and the resolutions of this board, in such cases, you are empowered to employ such additional assistants, and to make such temporary regulations for the effectual execution of the business as to you may appear necessary, taking care to report to this board, the appointments and regulations so made, and the reasons therefor.

You will hire, or if necessary impress teams for conveying the flour, &c., to the several magazines.

You will be supply'd with cash to pay the costs of the several magazines, in the expenditure of w^h^ you are to audit and pay the acco^ts^ of the commissioners, and report once in each week to this board the progress made in forming the magazines.

You will receive 2½ per cent for your private expences and trouble on the cash paid by you for the purposes aforesaid, and the commissioners 2½ per cent for their disbursements.

The q^r^ m^r^ Gen^l^ and his deputies, and all officers commanding detachments in the vicinage of the magazines are required to give such assistance, and such guards for their establishment and security as you may think necessary, and require.

In making the purchases of the foregoing articles you will confine yourselves to the prices fixed by the assemblies of New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and from such as refuse to sell, you are authorized to seize.

You are authorized to form a magazine of 10,000 bbs, besides those before-mentioned, convenient for the places out of Penn^a^ and appoint persons to execute your orders.

You will appoint such clerks, or store keepers as may be absolutely necessary for transacting the business at the magazines, giving them proper salaries, and taking care to report your proceedings thereon to this board.

You will lay up a magazine of 6000 barrels at York town, and 4000 at Carlisle, and you will keep up a correspondence with one another, that there may be a uniformity of prices and conduct.

You will immediately establish offices in your respective districts of w^h^ you will give notice to the board, & when you are ready to receive the money, which is ready to be sent you.

Superintendants appointed for the east side of Susquehanna.

Rob[t] Lettis Hooper. Jonathan Mifflin. Nath[l] Falconer.	For Sussex in New Jersey, Northampton County, Berks, Bucks and Philadelphia.
Richard Bache, (resigned). Col. Jno. Patton late of the cont[l] army. Henry Hollingsworth. James Read.	For Lancaster, Chester, the Northern parts of the Western shore of Maryland, the Eastern shore of the same State, & the Delaware State.

For the West side of Susquehanna.

General Ewing.
Captain John Byers.

No. 4.

We, the superintendants appointed for the counties of Philad[a] Bucks, Berks, and Northampton, in the state of Pennsylvania, and Sussex in the state of New Jersey, by the hon'ble the board of war, to form magazines of provision for the armies of the United States, having met at Reading to consult and determine on the best and most expeditious ways & means for carrying our orders into execution, and that the important trust reposed in us may be regularly and faithfully performed, have therefore determined,

That Robert Lettis Hooper, Junr., shall superintend and direct all the business in the counties of Northampton & Sussex, and shall pay and settle with all the millers & persons employed by us, or either of us in that district.

That Jonathan Mifflin and Nathaniel Falconer shall superintend and direct all the business in the counties of Philad[a], Bucks and Berks, and shall pay and settle with all the millers and persons employed by us, or either of us in the said district.

That as many mills and persons shall be employed in each district as the superintendant of the district shall think necessary and proper.

That instructions for the millers shall be formed & subscribed by us, which they shall be directed punctually to observe and follow, and these instructions shall not be altered in any part without calling a meeting of the subscribers, and then two of us agreeing, shall determine on the propriety of making the proposed alterations.

That advertisements shall be written in the English and German languages, informing the inhabitants of our appointment and of the regulations we have made, the prices fixed upon, and the names of the millers employed in each county.

That we will employ in our districts as many persons to purchase beef, pork, and salted meat, as we think are necessary, but to pre-

vent delays in prosecuting the business, the purchasers of grain shall not purchase meat of any kind.

That for the conveniency of our meeting together for the purpose of writing to the president of the board of war, and the commander in chief, comparing the weekly returns made by the purchasers of grain and meat, and the quantity issued, and for knowing from time to time the true state of our magazines; we will have a convenient house in Allen town, and appoint a competent clerk to reside there and keep an office, in w^h^ proper books shall be kept, and entries made of all the returns made of the quantities of provisions purchased and issued.

That our first meeting shall be on Thursday the 26 instant, as Allen town, where we will make such other regulations and appointments as we think are necessary to further the business for which we are appointed, to unite the good people in our district, and (avoiding all oppressive measures) to lead them spiritedly and zealously to contribute their whole strength in support of our righteous cause.

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No. 5.

Reading, February 11, 1778.

Sir,

On the 6 instant we received your letter, inclosing our appointment and directions from the hon'ble board of war. We have met here to forward the business for which we are appointed, and have formed instructions for the millers in our district, a copy of which we have sent to the board, and request, if it does not meet with their entire approbation, they will be pleased to direct what alterations shall be made.

We have already four capital mills employed in the counties of Northampton and Sussex, and hope, in a few days, to put every capital mill in our district in motion. Gen'l Mifflin informed us that the commissary of forage at head qu'rs has wrote to him for assistance in procuring forage for the army, and having requested us to give Col. Biddle all the aid in our power, we therefore beg leave to represent to the board that, being directed to regulate our purchases by the prices fixed by the act of asssembly, made in this state, we find it impossible, without force, to procure any rye, spelts, or oats, for horse feed, as the prices the assembly has directed to be given are much lower than what are given by the people in the country that have occasion to buy for their own use; but knowing how essential it may be to the public service to collect as expeditiously as possible a considerable quantity of horse feed for the immediate supply of the army horses, we have taken the liberty to request the quarter master general to direct his deputies to fix such

prices as we think are equivalent, in w^h^ he has been pleased to acquiesce, and shall forward to those persons we have employed, instructions to draw on us for the amo^t^ of the grain they purchase for forage—the rates we propose are for rye, twelve shill. ℔ bushel, spelts and oats seven shillings and sixpence ℔ bushel, and Indian corn nine shillings ℔ bushel.

We shall take the greatest precaution in forming the magazines, by fixing on such places as will be most safe & convenient. We can not yet determine where Capt. Falconer will fix his office, as it is necessary for him first to consult some of our best friends in the upper parts of Bucks county. Jon'n Mifflin will fix his office at Reading, and Robert L. Hooper at Easton and Allen town. There is at Easton a quantity of salt belonging to the states, lately brought to Easton from New Windsor, which will be sufficient to salt all the meat we can purchase. It is with great concern that we inform the hon'ble board that the purchasing of beef and pork has been too long delayed, and that the season is now too far advanced for us to procure a considerable quantity of meat of any kind, but our utmost diligence shall be used, and we hope suddenly to furnish great supplies of flour and horse feed.

We shall this day dispatch Mr. Rich^d^ Chickley to the board for money, and request you will be pleased to pay him, for the use of our district, one hundred thousand pounds. We shall not have it in our power to transmit to the board a weekly account of the quantity of grain and meat we may take in, but the love of our country and the desire we have to promote the public good, will urge us, as often as possible, to inform you how far we have proceeded in executing the trust committed to us.

we are with great respect sir,

your mo. humble servants,

ROBERT LETTIS HOOPER, Junr.
NATHANIEL FALCONER.
JONATHAN MIFFLIN, Junr.

Directed,

To the hon'ble Major Gen'l Gates, president of the hon'ble the board of war, York town.

No. 6.

Reading, Feb. 12th, 1778.

Sir,

As you are appointed by the superintendants for forming magazines of Provisions for the army, to purchase wheat & manufacture it into flour, I am directed by Major G'l Mifflin, Q. M. G., to request you will also purchase all the Rye, Spelts, Indian corn &

oats you can, at the following rates, viz: Rye @ 12*s.* ℔ bushel, spelts & oats @ 7*s.* 6*d.* ℔ bushel, & Indian corn @ 9*s.* ℔ bushel.

You must grind all the Rye, Indian corn, & spelts, you purchase, into Horse feed, which, when ground, you must pack into flour barrels, & secure in the way you are directed by the superintendants in the 4th article of their Instructions.

You shall be paid four Pounds ℔ hundred bushels, for grinding, packing, & delivering out, & two pence ℔ bushel on all the oats you purchase, with a reasonable allowance for storage & expences.

Capt. N. Falconer, superintendant of the district in which you reside, will furnish you with money when & as often as it will be necessary; and on every Monday you must make a return to him of all the grain you have purchased, & of the quantity you have issued on orders.

In issuing you must be directed by the 7th article of your Instructions from the superintendants.

From those persons who refuse to thresh out their grain, & to deliver to you so much of it as they can reasonably spare, you are to seize it in the straw, & to be directed by the first article of your Instructions from the superintendants.

You must collect all the grain you can, & you must not delay any time in doing it.

I am sir,

your h. s.,

ROB'T LETTIS HOOPER,
Dep'y Q'r M. Gen'l.

No. 7.

Reading, February 14th, 1778.

Sir,

We wrote to you by express the 11th instant, but omitted to inclose you a copy of our rules and regulations with the orders from the quarter master general, for fixing the prices of rye, &c., proper for horse feed, which papers you will now receive inclosed.

We flatter ourselves with the prospect of success in this great charge committed to our care by the honble board, especially in providing the articles of flour and horse feed, but as the success of our endeavours will depend upon a competent and seasonable supply of cash, we hope you will be pleased to order one hundred thousand pounds, to be sent to us as soon as possible.

The honble board will see the extent of our plan; and we have now the satisfaction to assure them seven capital mills are actually

employed, and in motion, and that we have already provided forage sufficient to load eighty teams for head quarters, as soon as they are collected by the waggon master general of this state, which the council has directed him to do.

We are with respect, Sir,

Your mo. humble servants,

ROBT. LETTIS HOOPER, Junr.
NATHL. FALCONER,
JON. MIFFLIN, Junr.

Directed,

To The honble major gen. Gates, prest of the honble, the board of war, York Town.

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No. 8.

A letter from Genl. Washington to R. L. Hooper, N. Falconer & G. Mifflin, also an extract of a letter from Mr. Duer to Mr. Lee* were read, & thereupon

Ordered, That copies of the same be sent by express to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, & that it be most earnestly recommended to them to exert the whole power of the State in providing & forwarding to the army, by every means possible, supplies of provisions, (especially of the meat kind) & forage, with the utmost despatch.

Resolved, That the board of war immediately employ a suitable number of proper persons, on the East side of Susquehannah River, to purchase meat & forage for the army, & to forward the same to the camp with all possible expedition, having respect to the prices fixed by the laws of the state of Pennsylvania.

Extract from the minutes of Congress. } Feb. 21, 1778.

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No. 9.

In Congress, Feb. 25, 1778.

The delegates of Pennsylvania laid before Congress a letter signed Thomas Wharton, Junr, President, dated in Council, Lancaster, Feb. 23, 1778, Requesting to be furnished with the following papers.

1. The Instructions of the board of war to their superintendents of Provisions.

* See page 276.

2. The plan laid down by the Superintendents &c., for the purchase of Provisions.

3. The Instructions for the millers, dated the 11 Jan'y last.

4. A letter from the Superintendants to the board of war, dated 11th Feb., Inst.

5. A letter dated 12th Feb., Instant, signed R. L. Hooper, D. Q. M. G., to the purchasers under the superintendants.

Ordered, That the board of war furnish the delegates of Pennsylvania with copies of the above papers or such of them as are in the office of the board of War & ordinance.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

(Copy.)

N. B. No. 5. Is a letter from the Superintendants not called for, but found on the files of the board of war.

The paper No. 5, called for by Council, is marked No. 6.

No. 7. Extracts from Minutes of Congress, Feb. 21, 1778.
8. ditto. . . . Jan'y 15, 1778.
9. Order of Congress for copies, Feb. 25, 1778.

J. B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, Feb. 28, 1778.

Sir,

On other side you have Copy of a letter yesterday Evening read in Congress. It was referred to a Committee, whose report you shall be made acquainted with. As I was that day confined to my bed cannot say what strictures were made on the subject by Congress.

The packet of copies was returned to me from the ferry as the river was impassable. I this moment had the honor of forwarding it by Gen^{l} Wilkinson.

I am, Sir,
with very great respect,
Your Excellencys & Councils
very humble Servant,
JON'A B. SMITH.

Directed,

On Public Service—J. B. Smith.

To His Excellency The President of the State of Pennsylvania Lancaster.

War Office, Feb'y 26, 1778.

Sir,

We are led to address you at this time from the appearance of new difficulties, with regard to the purchasing of provisions for the army. We have to regret that much confusion & contradiction has attended the management of this affair from the beginning. But above all we lament that any jealousies should arise between those who are aiming to accomplish the same point. God knows *we* have only one view, to see that provisions are procured in such quantities as shall certainly answer the present & future demands of the army. Who are the procurers is to us a matter of perfect indifference. We wish not to interfere in the business; on the contrary, we would gladly be rid of it, tho' in obedience to the orders of Congress, we most readily took upon us the direction of it. Accordingly, this board appointed two gentlemen on this side the Susquehanna, whose present orders are to form a magazine of 6000 bbls. of Flour at York Town, & 4000 at Carlisle, And to prevent any clashing or confusion, we have sent instructions to the Commissioners appointed by the law of this State, on the west side of Susquehannah, to purchase only meat & forage. But before the receipt of those orders, those Commis^{rs} we find had purchased considerable quantities of Wheat, to be manufactured into flour, & it seems they have been directed to *proceed* in the same way. The gentlemen appointed by us finding this to be the case, & having at first accepted the office purely to do a Service to the public, are now desirous of relinquishing the business, fearing, from the appearance of things, that they shall meet with such opposition & obstructions as will impede & render them very uneasy in the performance of their duty. Under these circumstances the board would be happy if Congress might obtain from the Executive Council of this State, as fair & full information of the steps they have taken, the Instructions given their Commissioners, the progress they have made in collecting provisions, & to what amount Congress may positively rely on their procuring the different species of provisions wanted for the army. From such a state of things Congress will be enabled to judge whether their supplies will be adequate to the wants of the army, or ability of the State to furnish them, and whether it will be at all necessary for this board to interfere in the matter. At present the business is in suspence, of w^{ch} the board thought it their duty to inform Congress. The Gentlemen employed by the board have made some purchases & contracts, & could complete the magazines they were ordered to form, but for the reasons above mentioned are unwilling to proceed any further, untill every appearance of competition or jealousy shall be removed.

I am, &c.

H. G. Pres^{t}.

To his Exc^{y} H. L., Esq., Presid^{t}, &c.

(Copy.)

COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778

Moore Hall, Camp, Feb'y 28th, 1778.

[In Committee of Congress.]

Sir,

The Cavalry of our army requires the most vigorous exertions be put on so respectable a footing, as to enable us to meet the E emy the ensuing Campaign on equal terms. Experience hath fully demonstrated the value and importance of this Corps, not on to the ease and security of the Troops in the Field, but to the pr tection of the faithful inhabitants of the Country, whose perso and property are exposed to the depredations of the enemy, that are of opinion there is no part of our establishment which strongly applies to the feelings of the People and calls for great attention. Under every disadvantage which a new raised Corps ways labours, and especially in a service entirely new, this body ha performed the most essential Services during the last Campaig What may we not therefore now expect from them, when experien and acquaintance with their duty has qualified them to discharge i When we are become better acquainted with the character of Of cers, and the Men are more familiarized to Danger and Discipline.

We promise ourselves, Sir, the greatest advantage from a de sive Superiority in Horse, in the open Country where the Scene Action will probably lie, and are the more anxious on this Subje as the Enemy are evidently increasing their number by every mea they can devise, purchasing and Stealing Horses for the purpo whenever they can be found. They have already two Troops Tory Light Horse, who are chiefly employed in kidnapping the civil Officers who are distinguished for their activity in executing t trust reposed in them by Government. The consequences of t to our infant States are too obvious to need enumeration. We a sorry to say they have lately had such success as will probably enc rage their progress in this mischievous business, and extend it very unless they meet with some seasonable check. We apprehend the fore your Excellency, and the Gentlemen in Authority with yo will fully concur with us in the propriety and necessity of recru ing this Corps with all possible dispatch, and favour us with yo best assistance in so doing. The Regiments are nearly complet with Men, Natives of the Country, whose time of Service in the fantry having expired, readily enlisted in the Horse: These M inured to fatigue, danger and discipline, have only to learn the *s cial* duties of that Service, and will form excellent Dragoons. T great difficulty under which the Service labours is the want of Hor and Saddles to mount them. On the one hand, to wait the tedio process of collecting Horses in the common mode by purchase, cit

by Officers or Agents uncontrolled by any immediate Authority, will occasion great fraud and delay. On the other hand, to use force in any degree appears oppressive, and leaves such lasting discontent in the minds of the sufferers as not only sours and disaffects to the general Interests of the Country, but to the particular State where the exaction is made. We have been, therefore, extremely solicitous to find some expedient to reconcile these clashing Duties, an expedient which may provide for the present exigence of the Service, without wounding too deeply those feelings and attachments which all Men have for their property in a greater or lesser degree. At length, Sir, as the Safer and more effectual mode, we have concluded to rely on the wisdom and public Spirit of the Gentlemen in Authority in this and the neighbouring States, and to request their exertions in the following mode. We have made calculations of the number of Horses and common country Saddles and Bridles proper for the Cavalry, which may be had from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania & New Jersey, respectively. The State, we suppose, will then calculate what number the Several Counties can furnish by a reasonable assessment, and then appoint proper persons in the County to purchase them on the best terms they can, allways attending to the following description. That the Horse be Sound and clean limbed, not less than Five years old this Spring, nor exceeding Twelve years; Geldings, at least 14½ hands high, and not less than one quarter blooded. We do not limit any price either as a purchase money, or a compensation to those employed in the business, because we presume they will be men of integrity and property, who, besides the Interest they have in common with us, that the public expences be not causelessly enhanced, will have a due regard to their own characters. In order to provide for payment, it is proposed that a number of Loan Office Certificates be lodged with the Executive Authority of the State, to be paid on the First Day of May, under such Limitations and Checks as will most effectually guard against Fraud or Mistake. The whole amount to be finally Settled between Congress and the State, when the business is completed. We must request that the persons who may be appointed to make the purchases, be directed from time to time to make returns of their doings in this business to yourself, and that you wou'd please to order a general return to be made to the Quarter Master General, and also to the Board of War. The number of Horses, Sadles and Bridles, estimated for this State, is Two hundred and fifty, which we believe will not appear by any means too large for its resources. We doubt not but on this occasion your Excellency, and the Gentlemen of the Legislature, will favor us with a continuance of those exertions, the beneficial effects of which we have already experienced. We greatly regret that this business has been so long delayed, and fear the Service will Suffer in consequence of it, as some time is necessary to train the Horses before they can be brought into the field. We hope, therefore, it will receive all pos-

sible forwardness from the Gentlemen who are to take it up, as the utility of the measure will depend greatly on dispatch.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servants,

FRA. DANA.

By Order.*

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 1st March, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour of writing to your Excellency the 24th ult. by the hand of Mr. Simons.

Your Excellency will be pleased to receive under cover with this & be referred to, two Acts of Congress, Viz.

1. The 26th Febr'y, for filling up the Continental Battalions accompanied by a Return from the War Office shewing the numbers wanted to complete.

2. Of the same date, for ascertaining the amount of necessaries supplied British Prisoners of War, from the commencement of the present contest.

I remain with great regard

Sir, Your Excellency's

obedient & most humble servant

HENRY LAURENS,†

President of Congress.

Directed,

On Public service, Henry Laurens.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancester.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 435—also see p. 323, of this Vol.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 435.

Geo. Gibson to Col. Ross, 1778.

Lancaster, 1st March, 1778.

Sir,

Four waggons with covers are wanted immediately for the purpose of conveying some cloathing to head quarters, for the use of the Army, as I have received orders from the hon'ble the Board of War to send on these Articles immediately to Camp, I must request you will put it in my Power to comply with their orders by procuring the above carriages without Delay.

I am with respect

Sir,

Your obed^{t} Serv^{t},

GEO. GIBSON.

Directed,

Col Geo. Ross, Jun'r, D. Q. M. G., Pres^{t}.

(Copy) Letter from Geo. Gibson to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Lancaster, 2d March, 1778.

Extract.

May it please your Excellency,

I had the Honor of writing to your Excellency the 22 ulto., in which I informed your Excellency I had received a letter from the Board of War with directions respecting 7 waggon loads of Cloathing that were on the road from York to this place, since which the waggons arrived, the directions from the Hon'ble the Board of War have been fully complied with except sending the goods to camp, three of the waggons that brought the Cloathing to this place were impressed, the other four are Continental property, the horses belonging to the whole are so emaciated as to be scarce able to drag the empty waggons. Immediately after the arrival of these waggons, I made application to the D. Q. M. G., at this place for four waggons, two days after he informed me that he had waited on the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of this State, & that no waggons could be had, yesterday I wrote him a note, the copy of which, & his answer, I do myself the Honor to transmit your Excellency as well to exculpate myself from blame on acco't of the detention of those articles at this place as to

inform your Excellency of the Waggon Department, in this County & to know how I am to conduct myself in future, when the service may require waggons—should any future exigency require an immediate supply, I am sure they cannot be procur'd agreeable to the present mode of procuring them in time to answer the demand.

JOHN CHALONER TO JAMES YOUNG, 1778.

Camp Valley Forge, Commissaries Office, March 2, 1778.

Sir,

This is accompanied by a letter from Col. Lutterloh, calling on you to stimulate the D. W. M. G., of the Counties to forward the waggons orderd for the commissaries departm^{t} as speedily as possibly. The army will assuredly suffer for want of Provision, and the publick Stores be exposed to danger, if not soon removed to places of safety.

I am unacquainted from what Counties the Waggons are orderd, but would beg leave to hint, that very few if any can be expected from Philadelphia, or Chester County. Suffer me again to repeat our necessitys, assuring you that not one of the 180 is yet arrived, which should they be detained much longer, the army will be reduced to the necessity of impressing, to avoid which I doubt not you will exert the powers you are vested with, and in which I hope you will succeed.

I am just now informed that a number of Country waggons coming from Lancaster with flour, have laid down their loads on the Horse Shoe road, and gone home, a practice so destructive to the publick weal as this is, I doubt not you will do your utmost to prevent, by bringing the offenders to justice, I shall endeavour to obtain their names and places of abode and should I succeed therein shall inform you.

I am Sir,
your most hble serv^{t}
JOHN CHALONER.

Directed,

James Young, Esq., W. M. G. for the State of Pennsylvania, Reading.

℔ Express.

James Young to Timothy Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

Having just receiv'd the inclosed letters, of which have taken a Copy, I beg they may be laid before Council. Although I do every thing in my power to assist the army I am greatly disappointed. I had repeated the orders of Council of the 29th Jan., to all the Waggon Masters, that the Waggons then ordered were to remain in Camp till relieved, which I promised to order as soon as I was informed their respective Quotas were arrived there. The Waggons of this County are constantly employed in carrying flour & forage to Schulkil & then transported by Water, which forwards the supplies, at the same time the Roads are almost impassible with loaded Waggons. I beg the Honble Council's orders what I shall do with the Waggon Master & his Assistant, whom Coll. Lutterloh is sending prisoners to me, Coll. Holler is very Vigilent in assisting me in this County.

The Express from Camp informs me that he yesterday met a Brigade of Waggons loaded with Hay, &c., near Camp, I suppose from Lancaster County.

I am very Respectfully,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt.
JAS. YOUNG.

Reading 2d March, 1778.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

On Public Service, J. Young, W. M. G., &c., 2d March, 6 o'clock, P. M. ☞ Express Charles Gobin.

(The following are the letters referred to, Nos. 1 & 2.)

No. 1.

John Chaloner to Colonel Biddle, 1778.

Sir,

The two Brigades from Northampton County, which you was kind enough to spare us to go to Elk, arrived last evening, were ordered to unload and go to your forrage yard for orders, but instead thereof attempted to cross the river and desert home, in which attempt several teams were lost and several men drowned, the particulars of

which we cannot ascertain, as the teams that got over made their escape and is gone off. One of the Waggon Mr^s. Michael Snyder, is sent to you and hope he may meet with his deserts. He also accompanied the teams across, but left his horse in the River, who returned and is the occasion of coming back.

I am, D^r Sir,

Your most hble Servant.

JOHN CHALONER.

Feb'ry 26, 1778.

Directed,

Colonel Clement Biddle, Forrage M^r General.

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No. 2.

COLL. LUTTERLOH TO JAMES YOUNG, 1778.

Sir,

The inclosed letter will show you, what Villany has been contrived by the Waggoners of the Teams send to our assistance. The Waggon Master mentioned is a Prisoner and shall be brought to you which, is judged the best mode to make an example of him to Deter others from the like attempt. But if we cannot put more confidence in those fellows, what shall we do? to guard them all would be impossible. Therefore you must appoint persons as Waggon Masters who will do their duty and keep their men together. I do not know what to do; no Waggons arrived but those I mentioned, and the run of again. I beg you will make immediate Report to the President and request all possible exertion to assist our army. The Danger of wanting the Waggons is great and as I have fulfilled my duty in stating it often, every blame must fall on those whose fault it is if any bad accident should happen.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your most ob^t hl. S.

H. LUTTERLOH.

Walley forge, Feby. 29, 1778.

P.S. The Prisoner shall be brought to you directly.

By Letter from M^r Thompson, W. M. of Bucks, I am to expect no Waggons from him, all that he can command being engaged in service, & none yet come from Lancaster or Berks Counties nor from Chester.

Directed,

To J. Young, Esq^r, Waggon Master General, at Reading.

Per Express, on public business.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, March 2, 1778.

Whereas it is essential to the operations of the army, during the next campaign, that the most vigorous measures should forthwith be adopted for forming a body of horse, upon such principles as are most likely to advance the public interest, and the honour of the officers and men who compose the same. And, whereas in times of public danger, when the lives, liberties, and property of a free people are threatened by a foreign and barbarous enemy, it is the duty of those, who enjoy, in a peculiar degree, the gifts of fortune and of a cultivated understanding, to stand forth, in a disinterested manner, in the defence of their country, and by a laudable example to rouse and animate their countrymen to deeds worthy of their brave ancestors and of the sacred cause of freedom.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the young gentlemen of property and spirit in the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersy, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, forthwith to constitute within their respective States, a troop or troops of light calvary, to serve at their own expence, (except in the article of provisions for themselves, and forage for their horses) until the 31st December next.

That each troop so to be raised consist of not less than twenty nor more than sixty, rank and file; that they have a right to chuse their own officers, who shall receive continental commissions, and that they rendezvous at the main army on the first day of May next, or at an earlier period, if possible.

That, in order to excite a proper spirit of emulation in these troops, and to give them an opportunity of appropriating that fame, which their respective merits may entitle them to, during the campaign, each troop shall bear the name of the State in which it is raised.

That these troops, when raised, shall not serve as expresses, except in time of action, nor as escorts to the person of any General, except that of the Commander of the army with whom they serve, unless with their own choice.

That every horse which shall be killed and every horse and all arms and accoutrements which shall be taken by the enemy in action, shall be paid for by the United States; the value to be ascertained under the direction of the Commander in Chief; and all booty taken from the enemy shall belong to the troop by whom it shall be taken.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the government of the respective States to countenance and encourage this design; and that the Board of War transmit to them forthwith copies of the foregoing resolutions, together with a descriptive list of the accoutrements necessary for man and horse.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

List of Necessaries and Accoutrements for each Horseman.

1. A well tempered sword, the blade straight, and three feet long with the back sharpened up six inches from the point; an open guard about the hilt, that will be light and yet defend the hand; with a scabbard of substantial leather without wood.

2. A carbine, fusee, or short blunderbuss; the barrel of the blunderbuss not to exceed two feet in length.

3. A pair of pistols and holsters.

4. A sword belt—a belt for the carbine, with a running swivel that will slip to any part of the belt.

5. A cartridge box to buckle round the waist, with twelve tin pipes for the cartridges.

6. A helmet of jacked leather, and effectually guarded by several rows of small chains, iron or steel hoopes; or a hat with a steel or iron scull piece inside the crown.

7. A saddle, saddle cloth, breast plate, crupper, saddle straps and pad.

8. Saddle bags, connected by two broad straps, in the common fashion, and not a portmantua.

9. A double reined bridle, with curb and snaffle bit, and a halter.

10. A cloak sufficient to cover all the arms and accoutrements, and which is to serve also in the place of a blanket.

11. Boots and spurs.

These articles, made as near as may be according to the above directions, with a good horse, will fit each man for the field.*

Geo. Ross to Col. Gibson, 1778.

Lancaster, 2d March, 1778.

Sir,

I rece'd your note desiring me to furnish four Waggon for the purpose of conveying some cloathing to Head quarters. I am sorry that I am under the necessity of Informing you that it is out of my Power to furnish them until I can send off an Express to the W. Master General of this County, who lives about 15 miles from this. A similar Application happened last Wednesday by a Lieut. Gamble for 5 teams for the same purpose. I did not know where to apply, the W. Master of this district being gone with some teams to Camp. I however Determined to wait on the President & Council to know what was to be done, they told me they knew of no other method than by sending off an Express to the W. Master of the County,

* Inclosed in Letter from Gen. Gates, Mar. 7, p. 339. See page 316.

which I immediately did, he came down, and to my great surprise told me they could not be had—that he had rece'd orders for a certain quota, and that he had been making them up & Could procure no more without further orders—for which he apply'd to Council & then was told they could give him no further assistance in the W. Department, but that the Assembly perhaps might see the Inconvenience & remedy the law; that they had gone as far as authorized by the Law, in appointing him a W Master for this County, & that he had appointed his Deputies in Battalion Districts, according to the Law. Then in this hopefull situation the W. Department is. In order to forward Mr. Gamble's Cloathing I have sent off two of my Forage teams & 2 Continental teams, which happened to be here. Indeed the prospect of sending the quota of teams from this County is very discouraging, several Brigades which were not to be less than 12, to my certain knowledge, are gone to camp with but 7, & further, the W. Master of this District told me that he could not get a Constable to execute a Warrant for bringing in some teams which had been warn'd & refus'd to attend.

In short, I am afraid if the Army depends on the present mode of procuring teams they will be disappointed, for over & above the quota to be raised I am called upon every day for more or less teams, & shall be obliged on every application, as I am on yours, to send off an Express to the W. Master, which will delay the team or teams at least 3 days. These, Sir, are the difficulties the Department labour under, & which I wish you and the whole army to know.

I am, Sir,

With respect,

Your humble Serv^{t},

G. ROSS, J^{r}, D. Q. M. G.

Directed,

To Col. Gibson, Pres^{t}.

Council to General Washington, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 2^{d}, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor of yours of the 23^{d} Febru^{y}, which I laid before Council. I hope as the Militia called out are chiefly arrived at Gen. Lacey's Camp, they will secure the Counties of Bucks & Philad. from any further insults & ravages of the Enemy, (unless they come out in force) who, I am sorry to find, have been but too successful. Gen. Lacey, I am informed, is active, but I think cannot have as much experience as his command requires; he will therefore stand n need of your Excellency's directions from time to time; this,

I am confident he will receive : so that I hope shortly to hear favorable accounts from that quarter.

At this time of distress, when, with every exertion, a sufficient quantity of Cloathing cannot be provided for the troops, the loss of those which Col. Stewart collected, is severely felt ; add to this the Captivity of our officers and many of the inhabitants—these things are much to be lamented, yet I doubt not with vigilance & perseverance in this, our righteous cause,we shall surmount all these difficulties, and, with the blessing of God, soon see an end to them.—I was favord with a Letter from Col. Stewart on the subject of his disappointment. Council will bear it in mind, and endeavor to relieve the wants of his Battalion as well as the others of this State.

Respecting the Petition of the recruiting officers, a copy of which your Excellency enclosed, I beg leave to mention, that Council intimated their difficulties to the House of Assembly now sitting, who immediately allowed them a bounty of sixteen dollars in addition to the Eight dollars given by Congress ; so that for each recruit they now receive £9.0 ; this sum, I hope, will be satisfactory to them. It will encourage the industrious, and be the means, I expect, of procuring many recruits—but I fear will not fully answer the grand purpose—as the assembly are now met, perhaps they may adopt some additional plan—I know it employs the thoughts of some of the members.—The Letter to the recruiting Officers shall be forwarded, & they, with the others, made acquainted with the allowance given by the House.

Much depends on the Harmony and confidence which the troops have in each other when collected together for our own defence—and any thing short of this may be attended with bad consequences —Council, perfectly well knowing the great attention which your Excelly has always paid to this point, were induced to hint their fears on that head lest it should not have come so soon to your knowledge. The unhappy affray at the Compass, I flatter myself, will not prove so injurious to the public as Council once thought ; some of the principal people accused of the Murder of Lieu^{t} Hammon, are taken & confined in the Gaol of this borough, and search is making for the others, and every exertion shall be used to bring the offenders to condign punishment.

Your Excelly's Letter of the 19 Feb'y,* with the Address to the people to induce them to prepare their Cattle for the use of the Army, in the Months of May, June & July next, will be inserted in the next Paper, with a Proclamation from Council, a Copy of which I take the liberty to enclose to your Excell'y, being, with great respect,

your Excelly's Most obedient
Hum. serv^{t}.

Indorsed,
To his Excellency, General Washington,

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 428.

Council to John Lesher, &c., Commissioners, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 2nd, 1778.

Gentlemen:

You being appointed by the Honorable house of General Assembly to be Commissioners for purchasing Provisions, &c. in the County of Berks, and this business requiring the utmost and immediate exertion of every power you possess, we embrace the first opportunity of forwarding to you a copy of the instructions given by Council to the Commissioners of the other Counties, which instructions you are to observe and follow. We also send you the supplement to the supply Law. The Council apprehend that a number of boats suitable to convey Provisions down the river Schuylkil may be had at and near Reading, and as the Waggon service is likely to be a very heavy one, We recommend it to you to hire as many of those boats as will carry the necessary supplies from your County to Camp; and if you cannot hire as many as shall be necessary for this purpose, you are to apply to a justice of the Peace for his Warrant to impress them. Any repairs which you may judge necessary to render the boats fit for service, is to be done as expeditiously as possible, and the cost of it deducted from the hire of them.

Directed,

To John Lesher, Valentine Eckhart, Michael Crause & Christian Lauer, jun^{r}, Berk's Co.

Council to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 3^{d}, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellency's several favours of the twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth of January; of the eighth, tenth, twenty-first and twenty-fourth of February, were received in due time.

The six blank commissions, &c., for private ships of war, have been transmitted to the navy-board of this state, in expectation that they will be necessary to fit out some boats for the river Delaware. As application is now made by several Gentlemen for commissions

of this kind, I must beg the favour of you to forward a few more of them by the first opportunity.

The resolve of Congress of the twenty-third instant, [ult. ?] has been published, according to your directions, by order of Council. There is no reason to doubt but that the General Assembly of this state will attend to the evident necessity of enacting a law for the effectual recovery of debts due to the United States of America.

The distress to which his Excellency General Washington has been reduced by the want of timely supplies, must give pain to every heart capable of being affected by the injuries done to the brave and generous. You may be assured, Sir, that this Council have seen and lamented his situation, and have done every thing in our power to relieve him. Repeated and pressing instructions have been given to the waggon masters to use the utmost diligence in complying with the law, so as to yield as early as possible, all the assistance in their power toward a full supply of waggons. Had an earlier attention been given to this important service, by those who have had the direction of the department on which this depends, and a larger circle round the several places where the demands for waggons have been greatest and most frequent, it is probable that the late inconveniences might have been avoided, and any sudden emergency readily supplied by the waggons near our towns; But these, by repeated sudden demands, are now almost worn out, and the horses rendered incapable of the severe task of travelling thro' the present excessive bad roads. This service falls extremely heavy on this state. It may deserve the serious attention of Congress or the Board of war, to enquire whether some assistance from the other states will not be absolutely necessary in the waggon service. The efforts of Pennsylvania in this way has been very strenuous throughout the war. While the army was in the neighbouring states great numbers of our Teams were in the service; but there does not appear to be any considerable assistance from the adjoining states in the present great extremity.

The abuses committed by the Quarter masters in procuring waggons, of which the people of this state loudly complained, induced the General Assembly to pass an act to regulate this business for the mutual advantage of the people, of the state, and of the general service. This act, which I have the honor now to enclose to your Excellency, took effect on the twentieth of last month, which is one day later than the date of M^{r}. Duer's letter, which contains that most extraordinary paragraph relating to waggons, upon which the Council forbear to make any remarks, But submit it to the candour of Congress, as being a circumstance of which we are wholly unacquainted. It may, however, be proper to say that Council have not, on any occasion, thrown the least difficulties in the way of the Quarter master or his deputies, at any time, or by any means discouraged the impressing of waggons when those officers have

judged it to be necessary, But on the contrary, have given them, when asked, countenance and all the assistance in our power.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Your Excellencys

Very humble Servant.

Mr. Symons is referred to the direction of His Excellency General Washington.

Directed,

To His Excellency Henry Laurens, Esqr., President of Congress.

Council to Commis'rs for Collecting Provisions, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 3, 1778.

(Circular.)

Gent.,

The want of a regular supply of Provisions and Forage in the army is very alarming, and I am therefore constrained again to urge you not to delay a moment in forwarding to camp meat of every kind and forage, agreable to the instructions which you have already received. On the exertions of this state our worthy General fully depends for a present supply; I therefore entreat you to exert yourself in this necessary business, which will not only tend to relieve the wants of our brave troops, exposed to every hardship in this inclement season, but will also wipe off the unmerited aspersions thrown upon the good people of this Commonwealth by many who have long wished for its political ruin.

A Supplement to the Supply Bill is inclosed for your further information.

By order of Council.

Indorsed,

To the Commissioners of the several counties for collecting provisions.

James Young to T. Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

Since I wrote you yesterday by express, I have another this day from Camp, and now inclose you Mr. Chaloner & Mr. Thompsons letters to show the Hon^ble^ Council the Difficulties we are put to. I have also letters from Coll. Lutterloh, Q. M. G., expressing the distresses of our army, I hope the Council will order the Militia to guard the Waggons to where they may be ordered; The inclosed to Mr. Bayley I beg you to forward. I find that the Assistant Waggon Masters, which are not to exceed one in each Battalion District, by Act of Assembly, are too few, am therefore under the necessity to direct the County Wag^n^ Masters that the public business must not be delay'd on that account, but to appoint more as necessity requires, and trust to the good intention of the Legislature that none should suffer who act for the best purposes. Experience only can point out the Defects of a Law. I am call'd on to know how the Waggoners are to be paid, Their quick payment would be very Essential to the public Service,

I am very respectfully Sir,
your very Obed^t^ Serv^t^,
JA'S YOUNG.

Reading, 3^d^ March, 1778.

Should there not be a severe penalty imposed on those Assistant Waggon Masters who undertake the service, and after several days resign, without sufficient reason, which greatly retards the service.
J. Y.

Directed,

On public Service. J. Young, W. M. G. of P.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

John Bondfield to President Wharton, 1778.

Bordeaux, 4 March, 1778.

Hon^ble^ Tho. Wharton, jun^r^, Pensilvania.

Duplicate.

Dear Sir,

We wish this may meet you Safely returned to your home, the latest advices received promised us the necessity Genl. Howe lay under of Speedily evacuating Philadelphia, but the assurance being built on Conjecture we must receive more accurate accounts to Satisfy our belief.

This Nation acts more Openly than She has hitherto done, the Continental Ships and many private Ships Sailed from Nantz under convoy of Ten Sail of French Men of War, we hope for your relief they may get Safe in, otherways a meeting at Sea of the English Squadron might be attended with favorable Circumstances, as hostilities could not be avoided.

Advice from India mentions the arrival of a French Fleet on the Coast of Malabar, India Stock in one Day fell four ℔ C^{t}, nothing less than a General revolution is expected in them parts to the prejudice of England; the Suspention of the American War, from the debates in the house of Commons appears resolved on, they are framing proposals of accommodation for your consideration; they apprehend France has concluded a treaty, and dread thereby being excluded from participating in your rich commerce of the States, to which is supposed many other leading objects that rendered a League with America indispensible, and it may be Said that at this Day on the new States of America depend the Ballance of Europe.

We continue our Commercial operations to the full extent of our means, but the Short returns or rather no returns hurts us, not having Capital to proceed with, and the Situation of affairs will not give room with prudence to Speculate without, all I can do at this time is to encourage the enterprising Spirit of adventuring by the Merchants here settled, in which I have been instrumental to upwards of thirty expeditions. Since January 1777, there has been cleared at the port Ninety four sail for different ports in the United States, whereof as I mention above only four Vessels have yet got back, you therefore will Suppose the adventure much damps, and has caused a backwardness in the underwriters, Some of whom have Sign'd to 120 Policies, yet open the present premiums for the round 60 ℔ C^{t}, which So enhances the value of Freights that fourCapitals for one will not realize the outset.

Mr. Thomas Morris Died at Nantz the Beginning of last Month. Mr. Wm. Lee remains now Sole Continental Agent, I have it in my power to serve the State in that line, my Connections in this Kingdom are Capital, and should esteem to render them as they are capable to the United States useful, too much opening for Complaint has been given owing to channels employed to transact the Publick Buisness, we are at the Source of the Woollen Manufactories, can supply at Short Notice any quantity, and our port is Situated to Command every advantage in enabling us to Dispatch Buisness, with the tender of my best Service I remain with Sincere attatchment,

Dear Sir,

your very hhb. serv^{t},

JOHN BONDFIELD.

Directed,

The Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Jun., President of Council of the State of Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania.

Navy Board to President Wharton, 1778.

Trenton, March 5th, 1778.

S^{r},

The Board received a Letter from General Washington, desiring us to take out the Cannon, &c., from the Galleys, and then carry them to a Creek and sink them, a copy of which letter your Excellency has inclosed. The Galleys are now fitted, and some fallen down as low as Borden Town, and, had not a spell of very bad weather come on, they would have been as far as Burlington. The People on both sides the River are very uneasy, and fear they shall be plundered, if the Galleys do not protect them, and as we can compleatly man six or seven of the Galleys, we think they will protect the River, and prevent any of their craft from coming up to plunder the Towns and Inhabitants along the shores, which they certainly will, if the Galleys are totally laid by. If they are laid by, all the vessels at Borden Town will soon be destroyed, as two or three small Boats may easily do it. The General's letter we showed to Governor Livingston, who advises, by no means, to sink the Galleys. We have sent this off by Express to your Excellency, praying your advice and order on this matter. How we shall remove the Cannon I cannot tell, as we can find no carriage to carry them. Mr. Pancas was here some time ago, and said he would send some Travelling carriages to us, but we have never heard any Thing more from him. If your Excellency would send to Col. Flower, and ask him to forward the Carriages down, we would then easily remove the Cannon.

I am,

By Order of the Board,

your most obedient serv^{t},

W'M BRADFORD.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

General Washington to Navy Board, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, March 2d, 1778.

Gentlemen,

As the Gallies can now be of no service in the River, and the Enemy have it in their Power to get them into their Possession, with all their Cannon and Stores, I beg leave strongly to recommend it to the Board, without delay, to evacuate them of their Cannon and Stores, and removing these to a place of security, in some interior Part of the Country—to carry the Galleys up into some of the Creeks and have them sunk. If there should be any other Vessels belonging to the State in the River, I would mean to comprehend them, and if there should be any Stores at Borden Town, or other Places on the River, these also ought to be removed to a place of Safety. We can reap no advantage from keeping the Gallies, Cannon and Stores, in such an exposed situation, and if they should fall into the Hands of the Enemy, which they would in all probability do, the Gallies would be useful to them, and the Cannon and Stores would be no inconsiderable loss to us.

I am,
Gentlemen,
your most obedient servt,
G° WASHINGTON.*

(Copy.)

Memorial of Council and Assembly to Congress, 1778.

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States of America.

The Representation of the President & Council, and the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania.†

The great importance of establishing the necessary magazines for the Continental army, and the dependance which we apprehended Congress had on the exertions of this State, to obtain Wheat and Flour for this purpose, have induced the Council and General Assembly to enquire what has been the occasion of the delay in this business, and to trace the misunderstanding which has arisen to the place where it took rise, and, if possible, to remedy the mistakes which have been made, before it is too late. The General Assembly

* Referred to in foregoing.
† Referred to Min. Coun., Vol. XI., p. 434.

rejoicing in an opportunity of showing their zeal in forwarding the measures of Congress, with the utmost readiness passed a law for the express purpose of filling the magazines. They may have been mistaken in their opinion that it was well calculated to answer the intention, but, if they were, there has been no attempt that we know of, to show that this has been the case, nor upon reviewing it, do they now see any material defect in it. And, with respect to the intention of the house, it is a circumstance much in their favour, that there is not a disaffected or doubtful character, as far as we know, among the Representatives of the Freemen of this State. Upon looking over the instructions given by the Board of War to their superintendants, we are compelled to express our astonishment at the contempt with which they treat the laws of the state. They not only supercede our appointments, but they expressly order their superintendants to determine concerning the conduct of our commissioners, and, if they shall think proper, to appoint others to execute the trust reposed in them by our laws. They give orders respecting the impressing of Mills & Waggons—the exempting of Millers, Coopers, &c., from Militia duty, in direct opposition to the laws of the State. And even their Superintendants take upon them to grant authority to the millers whom they shall think proper to appoint, to seize wheat in the straw, without any necessity shown to any officer of the State, or authority, or assistance of any kind to be asked from it. An earnest desire to avoid controversies, which would tend to delay the publick service a single moment, would induce us, as individuals of the State, to struggle under many difficulties and to contend with great hardships, before we should be heard to complain. But how can we, as the representatives of a people which is taught to consider itself as sovereign, free and independent, answer to our constituents for a neglect to enquire By what authority any power on earth shall affect to annul and control the laws of the State. How ridiculous must we appear in the eyes of all the world, after assuming such a character, if we should permit any persons whatever to exercise unbounded & uncontroled power over us. It would be below the dignity of the representatives of such a people to complain of an attempt of this kind, as much as it would be to withdraw their assistance in the common cause, from motives of petulance or resentment.

The posture in which this State now stands strugling with the enemy, possessed of her Capital, the disaffected waiting, on every hand, for an opportunity of overturning her, requires the effort of a Hercules to save herself. But how must she feel when the weapons of her friends, aimed at the enemy, have pierced her vitals, and demand her immediate attention to a wound that may disable or destroy her. Wisdom only can save her.

The orders issued by the superintendants to our Commissioners, to stop purchasing of Wheat and Flour, has thrown this business into confusion, and in several places brought it wholly to a stand.

This confusion has been greatly increased, as it is said, by the Quarter Masters, and others offering a higher price for grain and forage than the law directs, which, we fear, will be attended with very pernicious and dangerous consequences. It has already alarmed the people and raised their expectations of a higher price, as appears by a representation made, on this subject, to the General Assembly, by Col. Watson, one of the commissioners, which may probably induce a necessity of reconsidering the prices already mentioned.

The commissioners were supplied w^th^ money by the Council as soon as it was possible after receiving it from Congress, and there was every reason to hope that the magazines would have been filled with the greatest expedition, by a general effort of the people: But after what has happened, we dare not take upon us to answer for the success of our endeavours; yet we are willing to exert every power we possess in this, or any other line, to serve the General cause of America.

The attention which the affairs of the State require, would most effectually have prevented a wish in the legislature to meddle with Continental affairs;— but they could not refuse to give their assistance therein, when asked; and the same disposition which induced them to act will induce them to withdraw whenever that assistance is unnecessary; or to renew the effort in a way, which may promise more success, when either can be done with honour to the State. We confide in the wisdom of Congress, and consider the confusion which has arisen, as the effect of a distressing emergency; and therefore wish that the mode of establishing of the Magazines may be again taken into consideration, and adjusted upon some plan which may be effectual, and we assure the Congress that there is not any thing which they ought to ask of us, but what we shall with the utmost readiness afford them, and rejoice in the opportunity of supporting a cause on the success of which, our lives, our liberty, and everything worthy of being valued by Freemen are depending.

We should feel ourselves very unhappy, if any thing contained in this representation should be considered as an evidence of our seeking cause of complaint; yet we cannot forbear to mention that we do most earnestly desire, that no inhabitant of this State who has refused or neglected to give assurance of allegiance to it, may be appointed by Congress, or by any under them, to an office which may require him, in the discharge of his duty, to go out of the County, of his residence; otherwise the executive powers of the government will be reduced to the necessity of seeing the laws openly violated; or of arresting such officer, when found out of the county to which he belongs, and confining him until he shall give assurance of allegiance to the State according to law: A dilemma which we hope they may not be compelled into. And as the Waggon service is of great importance, we should be wanting in the respect which we owe to Congress, if we omitted to mention that the delay of pay-

ment for their former services is plead by the people as an excuse for their unwillingness, and, in several instances, absolute refusal of whole townships to render further service in this way.

March 6, 1778.*

JOHN ARNDT TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Near Easton, March 6th, 1778.

Sir,

Wee have received your letter of the 19th of February, by the hand of Jacob Arndt, Esq., together with 18,000 Dollars to be laid out for the purposes therein mentioned, also another Circular letter of the 24th ulto.

Agreeable thereto, wee have hired Assistants in different parts of this County for the speedy Collecting of beef, pork, Cattle, and swine, that may be found fit for use, wee have likewise sent two men to Wioming to make purchases there if any can be made, wee are not yet Inform'd what success they have met with.

Within this County wee have little hope of procuring a large number of Cattle or swine at this time of year, there being large hospitals in the Towns of Easton, Bethlehem, and Northampton, where considerable quantities of Provision is consum'd.

With regard to Forage it is very difficult for us to procure much, except the Bran, &c., of wheat, as Col. Hooper in the quarter master's department allows to pay the following prices, Viz^{t} for a Bushel of rye 12*s.*, for a bushel of Oats or Spelts 7*s.* 6. and for a bushel of Indian Corn 9*s.* which prices are higher than wee are authorizad to pay by law, and farmers will sell for the highest prices, & those that are Ignorant of the law will call us cheats for not offering the same that is paid them in said department.

Wee have made some progress in collecting and purchasing of wheat and flour, wee have mills Employ'd to manufacture the wheat as fast as can be.

Wee are Sir,
your Most Hum^{e} Serv^{t}

JOHN ARNDT,
DAVID DRYSLOW.

Directed,

On publick service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

* Referred to in Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 434, where there appears a blank left for it, also p. 436.

James Young to Council, 1778.

Reading, March 7th, 1778.

Sir,

This day three of the waggoners that left camp without leave came here from Northampton County to give Evidence in behalf of Michael Snyder, the Assistant Waggon Master of their Brigade, who was brought here under Guard and Committed to Gaol, as the Hon'ble Council directed. I had them examined on oath before Henry Crest, Esq.—They all declared that he was not privy to their desertion, they said the reason of their going off was that they were not accommidated with things necessary to stay, the County Waggon Master, Mr. Kreider having told them before setting off that they would be but eight days from home, he therefore deciev'd those men, Mr. David Deshler who came here with them informs me that Mr. Kreider's design was to induce them to go more willingly, there he was mistaken, as the orders from Council of the 29th Jan'y informed him that they were to stay in Camp until reliev'd by others, I have wrote him on the subject, Michael Snyder is extreamly well recommended to me by the most reputable people of the County of Nor^{a} for the good services he has done to our Common Cause, he twice led to Camp a full Company of Militia, & was otherwise very active in the waggon service, for these reasons, I order'd him to be discharg'd from confinement, which I hope the Hon'ble Council will approve of.

The inclosed Circular letters to the County Waggon Master I beg you will forward as soon as you can, those to Berks and Northampton I have sent by Mr. David Deshler.

I am with great respect

Sir, your very

humble Servant,

JAS. YOUNG.

P. S. Four Waggoners were Drown'd by their imprudent behaviour; it was dark, nine Waggons & about 20 horses lost.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

On public Service.

Favour'd by

Capt. Samuel Morris.

General Washington, to President Wharton, 1778.

Valley Forge, 7th March, 1778.

Sir,

There is nothing I have more at Heart than to discharge the great Dutics incumbent on me with the strictest Attention to the ease & Convenience of the People, every Instance therefore, of Hardship or oppression, exercised by the officers of any Department under my immediate Controul gives me the most sensible concern, & should be immediately punished if Complaints were properly made & supported. That there has been some foundation for such Complaints & that they have affected the service, I cannot doubt, from the great delay and Backwardness of the people in forwarding Supplies and affording the means of Transportation. Until the late Waggon Law of this State was passed, there being no means of procuring the service of the Inhabitants but by Military compulsion, Quarter Masters and Commissaries from the Necessity of the case seem to have been justified in impressing, tho' in many instances perhaps it has been done with Circumstances of Terror & hardship which they ought to have avoided. But when the Legislature had, by a Law, made an Arrangment & put this important Service under the Care of their own officers, it was my full Determination, by every means in my power, to support the law that had passed, & avail myself of the Resources of the State in the mode pointed out, under a full Confidence that the Wisdom & Forecast which had marked out such a Plan would be accompanied with proportionate Zeal & Efficacy to carry it into execution. Perhaps, Sir, I am not sufficiently informed to judge properly where the present Defect lies, & therefore avoid imputing Blame to any. But I would wish you & the gentlemen in Authority with you, to be assured, that nothing would give me more Satisfaction than to see the Powers of the Government so effectual for the supply & accomodation of the Army, as to take away not only the Necessity but even pretence of using any other than the ordinary Civil Authority. Give me leave further to remark, that the Army seems to have a peculiar Claim to the Exertions of the gentlemen of this State, to make its present situation as convenient as possible, as it was greatly owing to their apprehensions & anxieties, expressed in a Memorial to Congress, that the present position was had, where with unparallel'd Patience they have gone thro' a severe & inclement Winter, unprovided with any of those Conveniences & Comforts which are usually the Soldiers lot after the Duty of the field is over.

This will be delivered you by the Dep^{t} Quat^{r} Master General Lutterloh, whose Expectations of Waggons for the transportation of Supplies to Camp, as well as ordinary Camp Duty have by no means

been so fully answered as he expected. To what cause this Disappointment is owing you will doubtless discover upon conference with him, & if it shall appear to proceed from the Misconduct of any officer accountable to me, I beg you will furnish me with Proof of such Mal practices that I may apply a suitable Remedy. But if our difficulties flow from a defective Execution of the Law of the State, I trust your publick Spirit & Regard to the great Cause in which we are engaged will induce you to Strengthen what may be found weak, & quicken what may be found languid & Sluggish.

The necessities of the Service, Sir, are great, the Duty required, I acknowledge is burthensome & difficult at this inclement season, but it cannot be dispensed with. The Army & the Country have a Mutual Dependance upon each other, & it is of the last importance that their several duties should be so regulated & inforced as to produce not only the greatest Harmony & good understanding, but the truest happiness & Comfort to each; depending therefore upon a due & early attention to this important Business & promising myself no small Relief from our present Difficulties,

I am,
Sir, with due Respect
& Regard,
Your most Obed^{t} Serv^{t}.
G^{o}. WASHINGTON.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, I have Received a Letter from Colo. Gibson, at Lancaster, dated the 2^{d} Ins^{t}, Extract of which, with his orders to the Quarter Master, and the answer I enclose, to show how much we are distressed even in small matters; but our sufferings in Camp for want of Forage & Waggons is beyond all description.

G^{o} W—n.*

Directed,
His Excellency Gov^{r} Wharton.

Board of War and Ordnance to President Wharton, 1778.

War & Ordnance Office, 7 March, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose your Excellency the Resolutions of Congress,† recommending it to the young Gentlemen of property, in the state of Pennsylvania, to form a Volunteer Troop or Troops of

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 436. † See page 323.

Light Cavalry; annexed thereto is a descriptive List of Accoutrements necessary to be provided for their taking the field.

I am with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obt

Humble Servant,

HORATIO GATES,

President.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr, Presidt of the State of Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 7 March, 1778.

Sir,

The 1st Inst., I addressed your Excellency by the hand of Messenger McKonky.

Your Excellency will be pleased to receive under this cover, an Act of Congress of the present date, recommending to hold on Wednesday, the 22d April, a general Fast throughout these States.*

I have the honour to be

With great Regard,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Obedient humble

Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

Directed,

On public service, Henry Laurens. His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, &c. &c., Lancaster.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 438, for the proclamation by the Council for the fast.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, March 7th, 1778.

Whereas Almighty God, in the righteous dispensation of his providence, hath permitted the continuation of a cruel and desolating war in our land: and it being, at all times, the duty of a people to acknowledge God in all his ways, and more especially to humble themselves before him when evident tokens of his displeasure are manifested, to acknowledge his righteous government, confess and forsake their evil ways and implore his mercy:

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the United States of America to set apart Wednesday, the 22d day of April next, to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, that, at one time and with one voice, the inhabitants may acknowledge the righteous dispensations of divine providence, and confess their iniquities and transgressions, for which the land mourneth; that they may implore the mercy and forgiveness of God, and beseech him that vice, profaneness, extortion, and every evil may be done away, and that we may be a reformed and happy people; that they may unite in humble and earnest supplication that it may please Almighty God to guard and defend us against our enemies, and give vigor and success to our military operations by sea and land; that it may please him to bless the civil rulers and people, strengthen and perpetuate our union, and, in his own good time, establish us in the peaceable enjoyment of our rights and liberties; that it may please him to bless our schools and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of true piety, virtue and useful knowledge; that it may please him to cause the earth to yield its increase, and to crown the year with his goodness.

And it is recommended to the inhabitants of the United States to abstain on that day from labour and recreation.

Attest,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Robert Levers to Council, 1778.

Easton, March 7th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

This day I have received your Favor with Six marriage Licences. This Evening Mr. John Gordon came into Easton. Several persons have been with me, and are desirous he should be confined or bound in heavy Security, I am at a loss herein, as no Information against him

is lodged with me. It is true Col. Dean tells me, that there is a Person now in Easton that he believes is able to prove Mr Gordon was in Philada since he left this place, but then he says again, there are prudential Reasons why this person should not appear, because himself has lately been in there, brought out some valuable effects, has many connections there, Friends to the cause, & more effects, & should he lodge any Information against Mr Gordon, his Friends in Philada might suffer. And without some new matter, I do not see how I can call on Mr Gordon. He has voluntarily taken the oath, the Justice who administered it, Mr John Arndt, of equal authority with myself, did not think proper to demand security as he came voluntarily, not knowing Mr Gordon had been before me, & that I had insisted on his giving Security, but had left him on his Paroll till the next morning. I say, notwithstanding all this, I do not see, according to the acts of assembly, by what authority I can legally demand his entering into Security, unless something be alledged against him, either in Proof or on probable Grounds of suspicion. His father, I am persuaded, is a fixed, determined enemy of the American states; but then his Father is wearing away, lately lost his wife, and peevish at times to childishness; and tho' he is capable of being a dangerous man, yet I sincerely pity him. Now I have mentioned this, it is necessary to say, that Mr Gordon has lately leased the Ferry to one Jacob Abel and one Peter Ealer; I have nothing against the men, they have both taken the oath of allegiance, but yet, in Justice to my Country, I must add, that I have my Fears; tho' I can alledge nothing against them, I do not think the Test was an oily Pill, nor do I think they ever were or have been cordial Friends to Independency, the Grand Basis, at this Crisis, of American Liberty. These are my suggestions, founded only upon general observation. The Ferry at Easton is an important pass, and the more so from the great quantity of stores that frequently are here lodged; and during the present contest, I could sincerely wish, whilst the Enemy are in possession of our metropolis, the Ferry on both sides, & of Lehigh, were in the hands of the public, and the Possessors thereof allowed a proper compensation. There is no Guard kept there now, and if the Enemy can think this place an object worthy notice, I do not see what is to hinder them effecting its destruction. A Guard at the Ferry may seem of no moment, but it is a Guard, and may be the cause of preventing many dangerous schemes to be attempted. Excuse me, and believe me to be

Sir, with the greatest Respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

James Young to Council, 1778.

Reading, 8th March, 1778.

Sir,

This goes by Express from Coll. Lutterloh, with letters from his Excellency Gen[l] Washington to Council. Coll. Lutterloh has represented to me by orders of his Excellency, that not any Waggons can be had from Philad[a], Chester, nor Bucks Counties, I have, therefore, directed their Quotas to be sent from Lancaster, Berks & North[n] Counties. As the army is in great want of Waggons, I beg leave to propose to Council that they would please to order a Number of Waggons to go from York & Cumberland Counties to the Camp, & there to remain until relieved by others from said Counties. As the Counties of Lancaster, Berks & Northampton will be too much Distressed if they are to supply the whole of the Army.

I am, very Respectfully,

Sir, your very Humble Serv[t],

JA[s] YOUNG.

The Waggons from York & Cumb[d] should load on the W. side of Susquahana with Commissarys stores; Coll. Lutterloh informs me there is plenty there.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq[r], Secretary to the state of Penns[a], Lancaster, on public service.

℔ Express.

Col. Walter Stewart to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Camp, March 8th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am much afraid your Excellency will think me troublesome on the subject of Cloathing, but when you Consider my Honour, the credit of my Regiment, and the Health of my men are concerned, flatter myself you will excuse it.

The time is now approaching when they should be manouvering, but Instead of their doing that, for want of common necessaries, they are obliged to be confined to their Houses; shoes and stockings I have received a sufficient supply of, through different channels, and shall not, therefore, trouble your Excellency and the Council for those Articles. Colonel Farmer, who now goes to Lancaster to do some business for the Regiment, will be able to make you better

acquainted with my situation, to him, therefore I refer your Excellency. And am

D^r Sir, y. Excellency's
Most obed^t Hble. Serv^t,
WALTER STEWART, Col.,
13^th P. Reg^t.

Directed,

To His Excellency Tho^s Wharton, Jun^r, President of the Houble Executive Council at Lancaster.

Robert Levers to Council, 1778.

Easton, March 8^th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Herewith I send to you a Duplicate Certificate of Col. Hooper's having taken the Oaths agreeable to the Resolve of Congress—with M^r Lerch's, &

I am Sir,
with great Respect,
your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed.

To Timothy Mattlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Robert Levers to Council, 1778.

Easton, March 8^th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you yesterday and some time before relative to M^r John Gordon.

On or about the 18^th of last month he came to this Place, after an absence of many months. Some little time before the British Troops marched into Phil^a, M^r Gordon went thither; was in the City at the Time the British Army entered, and continued there for some time afterwards. Some of the Inhabitants of this Town, Friends to the States, expressing an uneasiness at his coming here at the critical Time he did, when a Report prevailed that the Enemy had been as high up as Tohiccon. I judged it necessary to call on him, and he being of a suspicious Character, and from his long voluntary Continuance in Philad^a with the Enemy, required that

he should sign a Paroll, and remain in Easton until the Pleasure of the Supreme Executive Council should be known concerning him. He objected to it, and said he was willing to take the Oath to be true to the States; but I was of opinion that it was necessary he shoud give some other Security, agreeably to a late act of Assembly. He desired time till the next morning, which was granted; and in the afternoon he went out of Town to John Arndt, Esquire, and took the Oath of Allegiance before him, and the next day left Easton. On my seeing Mr. Arndt, he assured me that if he had known he had been before me, he woud have demanded Security also, but as he came voluntarily before him, he readily gave him the Oath without any further Enquiry. Thus it remained till yester Evening, & this morning, when several persons came to me, particularly Col. Dean & Col. Clymer, & desired that I woud send for Mr Gordon, for there was too much Reason to believe he had been in Philadelphia since he had taken the Oath; and accordingly I wrote, acquainting him that I expected to see him at my house without delay, and to assign to me the reasons why he refused to take the Oath of Allegiance and give Security when called on by me, but he did not chuse to take any notice thereof; therefore, after a few hours had elapsed, I sent the Constable for him with a Warrant, who brought him before me this Evening, and on my Enquiry, why he did not think proper to wait on me, when I treated him with so much Civility, he was rather impertinent, and said as much that he did not know he had any business to dance after me. I gave him to understand that there was too much Ground for Suspicion that he had been in Philadelphia since he had taken the Oath, and required of him to sign a Paroll, or to give Security for his strict Allegiance to the States, but rather insisted on the former, which I took and here enclose.

I have been in this matter more circumstantial than was necessary, because that my whole Conduct herein might be seen.

I beg you will please to lay this matter before the Supreme Executive Council, whose Orders therein I shall chearfully obey.

There are several Persons I hear in Easton who have lately come out of Philada, particularly Israel Jacobs, who is suspected to be too much in the Interest of our adversaries; how this may be I cannot say, but his Daughters, who had been in Easton for several Months, went about four weeks ago into Philadelphia and there remain. He is a Relation of Myer Hart, who lives in Easton, one of the King of Great Britain's Commissaries under David Franks. I wish those who are out woud keep out, and those who are in were obliged to remain there. For I cannot but conceive that too many come out with a view of carrying in Intelligence.

I am with the greatest Respect

Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

March 9th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

This morning, as no Information had been regularly lodged with me, I sent for Mr. Jacobs, who attended. The Reason he assigns for coming into these Parts is, that there is Rent due on the house he lived in at Philadelphia, now occupied by the Enemy, belonging to the Bingham Family. That Mr. Bingham in Philadelphia refused to receive the Rent but in hard money, & that he is come out in order to pay the Rent to Mrs. Bingham at Allen Town, about £130. I do not conceive I have a legal Right to call any to an account without a proper Information made to me as a magistrate, nevertheless, as a virtuous Citizen and a true Friend to the cause of Liberty & of the United States, I have taken a Paroll from Mr. Jacobs, here enclosed. There are several Persons continually going up and down, and it is asserted into Philadelphia. I shall be glad to be favored with a Line from you, and with the sentiments of Council concerning this my conduct, and what line ought to be pursued in such particular exigencies.

Yesterday, after Mr. Gordon was so unpolite as not to wait on me, I called on Col. Sidman, of the militia, and desired, that, perhaps as the constable might be opposed, he would give him some assistance, at the same time observing, that it was the duty of the Inhabitants of this Town to show a proper spirit on this occasion, and that, as he was the first that called on me, to apprehend Mr. Gordon, he should show to his Fellow citizens a proper example; instead, whereof, he goes to a young Continental Lieut. and prevails with him to bring Four men, arm'd, with Bayonets fixed, belonging to a Massachusetts Regiment, on their march to Camp, to come to my house to assist the constables. I acquainted Col. Sidman that I looked upon this conduct to be such an Indignity shewn to the natural strength of this State, and Reproach on himself and his Fellow Citizens, that I should send the constable by himself.

The situation of this place is really melancholy. A very important Pass; Thro which, from the northward, an amazing quantity of stores are daily conveyed, and oftentimes great quantities of ammunition & other stores remain here. The unfriendly disposition of far the greater Part of Bucks County, and of this, to say the least, that it is wholly stupid and inactive, seemingly wrapped up in a lethargic sloth, no Guard, but a few decrepid Invalids, dying by inches for want of cloathing, and the Public Stores, more or less, pillaged for want of a sufficient Guard. What is there to hinder a very small Body of Men, under the command of a gallant and enterprising officer, to make a sudden Push hither, destroy all that is valuable, and to take Prisoners such as might be unfortunate enough to be found here. I am told with a degree of confidence, that Three Hundred Men in Bucks County, have given in their

names to Joseph Galloway, and have offered their services, it may be, on an Expedition to this very Town. Their Retreat is sure, Infallibly sure. Excuse the Freedom, but the Duty I owe to the Public, and to the Trust reposed in me, convinces me that this much I ought to say, which I pray may be laid before the Supreme Executive Council.

I am,
With the greatest Respect,
Dear Sir,
Your most obedient,
Very humble
Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

JOHN LESHER, COMMISSIONER OF BERKS, TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Oley, 9th March, 1778.

Sir,

I received your orders dated 24th February, by express the 4 instant; I also this day received those dated the 3d instant.

I shall exert every nerve in performing every thing in my power in order to relieve the wants of the Army.

But, as several circumstances has occurred to me, which I shall lay before you, in which I think I am not clearly satisfied how to direct my line of conduct therein: Therefore, I earnestly desire you will be so good as to send me your further orders, or advice in the premises, as soon as may be.

I received orders some time ago from M. G. Mifflin, by the hand of Col. Mifflin, which directed me to give 12*s.* ℔ Bushel for Rye, 7*s.* 6*d.* for Oats & spelts, which is a higher price than was fixt by the late Act of Assembly, which I presume is the rates I am to pay, as your orders mention nothing of prices. Several persons, by directions from this gentlemen, as well as from Col. Bird, still continue to give that price for all they can possibly collect, and unless I have orders to give the same, it cannot be expected that I can procure those articles with justice to the farmer.

A certain Alexr M'Casky, F. M., acting under Col. Biddle, made application to me, before and since my present appointment, to use my influence in forwarding the good People in my vicinage to send their forage to the Magazine at Schuylkill, in order to be transported

from thence to the army by water. I readily complied, and he obtained a very considerable quantity, for which he gave his receipts & promised to pay them himself, but since has directed them to me for payment, which I think I cannot comply with unless I have orders for so doing, or be assured that his receipts so given to the people, will be valid in settling my Acc^{ts}.—Further, I have found in several Mills within my district, a considerable quantity of Flour manufactured for the use of the army, by directions from assisstant commissaries of Purch^{s}; as the said Millers are not yet paid for the same, and the flour has been a considerable time on hand, and perhaps may lie a considerable time longer, I conceive I should send the same immediately to camp, or to the Magazines appointed for the reception of that article.

I would also mention, that I would be glad to know the rates of Salt & dried Beef, Bacon, &c., (as there is no mention of those articles in the Act,) or whether I am to buy the same at such terms as can procure. I confident I can collect a considerable quantity of those articles, which I think may be of great service the ensuing season.

I am,
with much respect, Sir,
Your most Obe^{t} humble servant,
JOHN LESHER.

Directed,
On public service.
To the Hon^{ble} Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Col. Lutterloh to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

The inclosed letter I should have delivered in person, but being not very well, prevents me from that honour. I have settled here with M^{r} Young, the Wagon Master General, who will do every thing in his power to forward the Waggons as soon as possible. If your Excellency will be pleased to make a speedy alteration in providing the Number of Waggons which were ordered out of the Countys of Philadelphia and Chester, that the County of York should furnish them, as it is not to be expected that the said Two Countys could deliver them, being allready drained by the Armys; and therefore His Excellency, General Washington, thinks it would only be loosing time to hope for their Assistance. Mr. Young will inform Your

Excell. of his Regulations; and I only will add, that our Distress in the Army for Want of Waggons is extremely great, and requires a Serious consideration, and a speedy exertion of all possible assistance.

I beg your Excell. will be pleased to issue the Necessary orders to York County for Fifty Waggons wanted to the Number demanded out of Philadelphia, Chester & Bucks Countys. Allso, that the all come loated with Flower or other Commissary stores, espetially as I am informed there laies a great quantity of Flower on the shore of the Susqnehanna. I have the honour to be, with due respects,

Your Excelly's most
obed. hble. Servt.,

LUTTERLOH.

Reading, March 9th, 1778.

Council to Joseph Jeffries, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, March 9th, 1778.

Sir,

The want of Waggons at Camp is so great that I am under the necessity to require that you will without one moments loss of time order to Camp Fifty Waggons from your County, call upon the Commissioners appointed by the late Act of Assembly for such Forage as they may have Collected, to take the same to Camp, but in case the Commissioners should not have procured a sufficient quantʸ to load them, then order them to call upon the quarter Mastʳ here, Mr. George Ross, who I expect will furnish a load to each; let me entreat you to exert yourself to forward them immediately, as the Army are suffering beyond description for the want of them. If you stand in need of assistance I beg you to employ as many as are necessary, for the Waggons must be had. The House of Assembly are about passing a supplement to the Waggon Law, and have put forth the enclosed for the consideration of the people. I expect to hear from you in a few Days that the Waggons are procured & on their way, this will not only be a satisfaction to Council, but of real use to our distressed Troops.

I am, Sir,
your very H. servᵗ.

P. S. Send the Waggons in brigades as fast as they are collected.

Directed,

To Mr. J. Jefferies, Waggon Master of York County.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 10th March, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour of writing to your Excellency the 7th Inst by Messenger Millet, & yesterday of receiving & presenting to Congress your favour of the 3d Inst., which was then committed to the Board of War, & I have receiv'd no commands respecting the Contents; but in the course of duty, agreeable to your Excellency's request, I now transmit Six Commissions for Cruizers, with Instructions & Bonds.

I remain with very great Esteem & Regard,

Sir,

your Excellency's

Obedient & Most hum. servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President, Pennsylvania.

Jonathan B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, March 10, 1778.

Sir,

On other leaf is copy of parts of a letter from Colo Hartley to the board of war on the subject of recruiting his battalion, & the boards letter to Congress on the subject; both which were referred to the delegates of this State. As not to comply with the proposition made, might appear an unnecessary obstruction to reinforceing the army on one hand, or on the other a compliance might involve consequences not expected, the delegates advised with the Committee from the state now here, & finally take the liberty of referring to your directions, as they did not conceive themselves authorized to interfere.

The states are severally called upon to raise their old quota of troops. The number of this state regiments is diminished to 10. The supernumerary men are to be transferred to the horse, artillery, & other unconnected corps. Of the 16 Regiments (so called) 9 only are to be kept up; &, I suppose, will be allotted to particular states, & filled up as above. Colo Hartleys will probably belong to us as its

natural connexion. To concur with his proposition will give him the men more immediately, & allowing him to employ his officers may expedite the recruiting service; perhaps be the mean of procuring recruits, either from connection or attachment, which others would not pick up. He has expectations from the borders of Maryland; filled his regiment formerly with quick success, & appears to be sanguine now. With respect to the money he appears to be prudent & cautious. But as we may perhaps not foresee all the effects, or the full connection with the state of Pennsylvania, we beg leave to solicit your earliest advice & direction, as no time ought to be lost. We beg leave only to add that the complement of each battalion is also to be reduced, & that though some states have discountenanced these unconnected regiments, yet some others have given them the benefit of their state bounties.

I am Sir,

with very great respect in behalf of the Delegates,
your Excellency's & Councils
most ob. h. servant,
JON[a] B. SMITH.

—

Extracts of a letter from Col[o] Hartley to the board of war, 9 March, 1778.

If my regiment is be recruited, the recruiting officer must be allowed to give the same bounty with the state in which he beats up or he will get no men. He should also have the like reward for inlisting a soldier that the state officers receive. Should you think proper to order the regiment to be recruited money will be wanted, not a large sum at present. Perhaps the Pennsylvania bounty for twenty or 30 men will do. Care must be taken not to advance the whole bounty at once to every loose fellow. None but prudent officers should be sent on this service. Any men that are or shall be enlisted in this state or any other for this regiment, they shall have credit for in their quota, & proper returns shall be made as Congress or the board of war may direct.

—

Copy of a letter from board of war to Congress.

Sir,

The board of war were some time since directed to take some [measures for] recruiting Col[o] Hartley's regiment. The board are of opinion [money] alone is necessary, & therefore pray the determina-

tion of Congress whether Col° Hartley shall be furnished with money to recruit on the terms he proposes.

yr. ob. Serv^t^,
H. G.
Pres't.

P. S. Such others of the nine regiments as have not been adopted by particular states, will doubtless expect the same indulgences and privileges.

Directed,
To His Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Council to Colonel Lutterloh.

In Council.
Lancaster, March 10th, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday I rec^d^ your Letter of the 9^th^ Inst^* from Reading, and I am sorry that your indisposition prevented your coming to Lancaster. Council would have been well pleased to converse with you on the subject of Waggons, because they could have explained themselves more fully than by writing. It is my wish, and that of every member of the board, that the full powers of the State should be exerted as soon as they are called upon for that purpose, by his Excellency Gen. Washington, or those acting under him, to aid the army, and I can assure you that this has invariably been the case, and particularly so in the business of procuring Waggons; for, until the House of Assembly passed a Law to regulate them, and oblige every person to take their turn of Duty—whenever Council was called upon by the D. Q. Master, or any other proper person, they gave every assistance in their power by permitting them to be impressed—in no instance can I recollect that the least impediment has been thrown in the way of that business; the fault, I am persuaded ought to be imputed to another cause. Numbers of the good people of this State, whose waggons have repeatedly been in the service, as well as many others, I am informed, who have had their forage, &c., taken from them by the Q. Masters & their Deputies, are not paid, nor do they see the least hopes of obtaining their Monies. This injurious treatment, abundantly more than any want of exertion in the governing powers, is the cause why there is a backwardness in furnishing Waggons, and permit me to assure you that it is a matter so serious, that unless a remedy is soon applied, it will be out of the

* See page 348.

power of Council to put the Laws in execution, unless one half of the army is called upon to assist them—& so Council has Informed Congress. Notwithstanding this difficulty, in hopes it will be soon remedied, I yesterday sent to the Waggon Master of York County, agreeable to yours & Col'l Young's recommendation, for fifty Waggons, to be forwarded as fast as a brigade could be procured, with forage, if the commissioners had provided any, if not then, to call upon Mr. Ross, the D. Q. Master here.

You may always depend upon every assistance which Council can afford.

Being with much respect sir,

your very humᵉ seᵗ,

Col. Lutterloh.

Council to General Washington, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 10, 1778.

Sir,

In answer to your Excellency's letter of the 7th instant, I beg leave to enclose you extracts of a letter to his Excellency the President of Congress from this Council, and of a representation from the Council & the General Assembly to Congress, by which your Excellency will see that attention has been given to the supplying of the army with waggons, and what is the opinion of Council respecting the difficulties attending this business.*

There is not any state on this continent which has been so oppressed with the Continental business as this has been, from the begining of the present controversy to this hour. Its exertions have been so zealous and unremitting that no time has been lost in enquiries after groundless charges of neglect made against it, which have been generally calculated to excuse indolent or improvident officers, or to disgrace the government established in it. The amazingly difficult task which your Excellency has to perform while you are embarrassed with perpetual applications and complaints of officers, who are not fully acquainted with their duty, must, too forcibly, convince you how near to an impossibility it is to conduct a very extensive business without the subordinate officers discharging, in some sort, their duty; and it is from the example of your Excellency alone that it is believed to be possible to conduct the affairs of a large army under the difficulties which you have had to contend with. Equal abilities or success in attempts of this kind, are not to be expected in many instances. And this Council must

* See pages 338, 332.

acknowledge that they are not equal to the task impressed on them, if it is understood to be their duty to furnish every Deputy Q^r. M^r. with four or five waggons, whenever they are wanted, and to give equal attention to every other department of the State and Army. This indeed seems to be expected of them, for there is at present an absolute dependance on the Council to supply the common rations of the soldiery now in this borough. An earnest desire to serve the General cause, and a zealous attachment to its interest, are the only motives which could possibly induce the Council to undertake such business in any extremity.

The unparalleled patience and magnanimity with which the army, under your Excellency's command, have endured the hardships attending their situation, unsupplied as they have been thro' an uncommonly severe winter, is an honour which posterity will consider as more illustrious than could have been derived to them by a victory obtained by any sudden and vigorous exertion.

The latter often depends on some circumstance trifling in itself, while the former is derived from a determined perseverance thro' the greatest of difficulties, which virtue and a truly patriotic spirit only can inspire.

Indorsed,

To His Excellency General Washington.

Council to General Washington.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 11, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed is copy of a letter written by the Navy Board of Pennsylvania, which the Council thought proper to refer, with such intelligence respecting the boats, &c., in Delaware, as Captain Huston shall be able to give to y^r Exc^y. However unwilling the State may be to lose their little force on Delaware, their confidence in your wisdom will induce a ready obedience to your Excellency's orders, in that and every other military department. Perhaps it may be necessary to take effectual measures to prevent the men, belonging to the boats, from joining the enemy, upon their being ordered to sink the Gallies, &c.

Cap^t. Huston will receive orders from you to the Navy Board.

T. W.

To his Exc^y G'l Washington. By Captain Huston.

Council to Navy Board, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, March 11th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the fifth Instant by Captain Huston the Council have thought it prudent to refer to his Excellency Gen[l] Washington; and have recommended Captain Huston to attend on him with such intelligence as he can give respecting the fleet of our State. However unwillingly we may see this little fleet destroyed or abandoned, we must not hesitate to obey the orders which his Excellency may finally give in this case; otherwise we shall get into confusion which will be fatal to us: and we are confident His Excellency would not order the gallies to be sunk without seeing a real necessity for so doing.

The Council intend writing to Mr. Pancoast respecting the carriages, but they expect very little from it, and recommend you to depend on your own exertions to have the Guns &c[a] removed if the General shall order it. The very instant I can furnish you with money as well to pay the fleet as for the Commissary, Mr. W. C. Bradford shall set off with it.

I am with respect
Gentlemen,
your very humble servant
T. W.

Indorsed,

To the Gentlemen of the Pennylvania Navy Board.
By Captain Hudson.

Council to Col. And'w Boyd, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, March 11th, 1778.

Sir,

Council are informed that there is a quantity of Paper at the paper mill belonging to Mr. Wilcocks in your County, this is an article so essentially necessary at this time of distress and difficulty when our ports are shut up that it is the opinion of Council it should be immediately seized and taken to some place of safety—Council therefore request you to undertake this business and as it is probable that the enemy will counteract the design unless you conduct your-

self with great secrecy and dispatch, as I am informed that Mr. Wilcocks is in the City of Philad[a], I think it necessary to caution you on this head, you are hereby authorised to call on the Waggon Master of your County for waggons as you may have occasion, and if you find a Guard of Militia to be necessary which I think is absolutely so, the powers with which you are invested they may easily be procured, but none of them should be intrusted with the secret unless it be the officer commanding the party—as it is intended that the owner shall be paid a reasonable price for the paper, you will please to leave a certificate with some of the Family for the quantity you may take.

It is the request of Council that you make particular enquiry respecting the conduct of the People that are carrying on the business at the paper Mill, and what stock of raw materials is on hand, as it is hinted to Council that they are unfriendly to the American cause.

I am Sir,
your very
Humble serv[t].

P. S. Mr. Wilcocks has in his possesion a mould for making paper belonging to this State, which I request you to bring away, it is marked with the word *Pennsylvania* in twenty four places, he did promise if the enemy came that way he would throw it into the Mill Dam.

Indorsed,

To Col. Andrew Boyd sub-Lieu[t] of Chester County.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 11th March, 1778.

Resolved,

That whatever expence may be incurred by the executive authority of any State in executing the resolution of Congress of the 9 Feby last, authorising the executive powers of every State to suspend for misbehaviour, or remove as supernumerary, any officers of the staff, or other civil officers, shall be duly paid upon the accounts being laid before the board of treasury.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, secy.

Jonathan B. Smith to James Young, 1778.

Copy.

Sir,

The frequent complaints made concerning the Waggon service induces me to trouble you with this letter, I shall mention two instances, & will be much obliged to you for a state of the case in general, & for your sentiments on the particular instanees I now refer to.

Your letter to Council was transmitted to the Delegates of this State, & we had occasion to communicate it to Congress. It was said in reply that the Superintendants had regularly turned over the whole transactions & given the proper orders for delivery to the Commissioners, and upon application from the Waggon Masters informed them that they had done so & referred to them.

The other Instance is that upon application for Waggons to move 2 tons of Iron you had refused to, saying that no waggons were to go out of the State.

As I imagine those things only need to be explained, I wish for information, & shall be glad to receive it, or on any other occasion from you.

I am Sir, with respect
your very Ob^{t} Serv^{t}
JON^{A}. B. SMITH.

York Town, 11th March, 1778.

Directed,

To James Young, Esq.

Gen. Washington to Major Forrest, 1778.

Head Quarters, 11th March, 1778.

Sir,

I am favoured with yours of the 9th, I Cannot conceive how you can think yourself Injured by the promotion of Major Pomkin to the Lieu^{t} Colonelcy of Col. Crane's Battalion of Artillery, if it is so for I am not yet Informed that such promotion has taken place. Each Reg^{t} of Artillery is as distinct as the Reg^{t} of foot belonging to the different states are from each other, and therefore the promotion of an officer in Col. Cranes or Col. Lamb's Battallion no more affects

you than the Promotion of an officer in the Virginia line affects the Rank of an officer in the Maryland, or any other. I hope upon reflection you will see this matter in its true light, which I think is Stated above.

I am Sir,

y^r^ mo. obd^t^ Serv^t^

Signed GEO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. As I am unacquainted with the matter respecting Major Pomkins Promotion, I shall suspend it at least till Gen'l Knox's arrival.

Directed,

Major Forrest.

Col. Lewis Nicola to ———, 1778.

March 12th, 1778.

Sir,

As the time, viz., 16 weeks from 24th Nov^r^ for which 4 cords of wood was ordered for me by the Hon^ble^ Council expires the 16th Inst, I request you will apply for an order to Mr. Chrispin to supply me further & you'll oblige,

Sir,

your most obed^t^ Serv^t^

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 12th March, 1778.

Resolved,

That a letter be addressed by the president to the respective States, informing them, that the multiplicity & importance of the business of Congress during the war, will require the constant attendance of at least three members from each State; that from the want thereof, the health of members has been frequently impaired, & the public business greatly obstructed; & that Congress request their immediate attention to this, as a matter of great moment.

Extract from the minutes;

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

D. ROBERDEAU AND J. B. SMITH TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

March 12th, 1778, York Town.

Sir,

The Committee of Council and Assembly, who left us this day intimated the desire of the State to offer to Congress our Gallies and Zebechs, on reflection the Delegates think it of such importance that they request particular instructions on the head, lest they should act contrary to your, and the intention of the State. We shall expect Instructions and are,

Sir, y^r^ most

ob^t^ hum^l^ Serv^t^,
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.
JON'A. B. SMITH.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

℔ Express.

D. ROBERDEAU AND J. B. SMITH TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, March 12th, 1778.

Sir,

Peter Ozeas this day from Lancaster, informed one of us that it was the desire of the Speaker and Col. Morgan that he, Ozeas, should apply to a Magistrate here to apprehend Mr. Wm. Todd, Coachmaker of Philada., who Mr. Ozeas says on his own knowledge issued counterfeit Continental money in Reading. Mr. Todd having left this Town this morning, we applied to the board of war for two light horsemen and a proper officer to follow Todd to Baltimore and bring him back, who are to set off this Evening. In tracing this affair we are informed that Todd has ordered his Servant with a portmantua back to Pottsgrove while he goes another way, this adds to the suspicion raised by Ozeas's information, therefore we have thought it of sufficient importance to furnish this information, that you may have an opportunity to send a prudent person to pursue the Servant, and to watch a happy nick of time when the Servant may be charged with counterfeit money, Letters, or other information for the fuller conviction of Mr. Todd, and to discover any accomplices in the black

design that may be against the general cause. We must exercise an Oliverian diligence, secrecy and jealousy, and search to the bottom of any conspiracy, for an early conviction and example may have the happiest tendency to suppress so diabolical a spirit, which otherwise may prevail to our ruin, therefore Council, we doubt not will take every prudent and vigorous step to detect such vile Machinations. We should not on a verbal information have proceeded to any measure but that Ozeas's testimony concerning the issuing the money may be sufficient, failing of further information which we earnestly desire as a matter of very high importance. We have farther information on the same authority that Todd has been lately near the Enemy's lines and has dry goods to sell.

We are respectfully

Sir, y^r^ most

ob^t^ hum^l^ Serv^t^

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.
JON'A B. SMITH.

P. S. The Servant is a white man.

Directed

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Board of War to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

War office, March 12, '78.

Sir,

Mr. Todd's servant had a pass from Mr. Peters. Todd having previously shown him his certificate that he had taken the oath of allegiance he had taken to this state. After the pass was given Todd told Mr. Peters that his servant also had taken the oath; then Mr. Peters said his pass was unnecessary, & asked for it, but Todd answered that it would be the surest to have both. The pass was for his servant to go to Pottsgrove, where he was to remain till his master returned. The servant carried his master's portmanteau with him. I mentioned these things to Mr. Smith, but tho't best to repeat them lest he should have omitted them. Mr. Peters is sick, but informed the board of these circumstances by a note, and his

indisposition prevented his reflecting on the circumstances at the time, tho' they looked suspicious.

I am, Sir,

Y^r^ obed^t^ serv^t^,

TIM. PICKERING, Jun^r^.

Two gentlemen go off early to-morrow morning for Baltimore, in pursuit of Todd.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos. Wharton, Jr., Esq.

Council to Genl. Lacey, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 12th, 1778.

Sir,

I rec'd your Letter of the 4th Inst., which I laid before Council. It is greatly to be lamented that there are any amongst us so lost to every sentiment of Virtue as in any manner to Aid those who are Enemys to the just cause we are engaged in. Your neigbourhood seems to abound with such, and therefore every means should be exerted to bring the traitors to justice. Those you have taken should be safely secured, in order for tryal, as the Treason Law of this State will reach the crime you mention if proper proof be exhibited, which I beg you to attend to. However, as the Chief Justice is in this borough I will consult him upon it, and let you know his opinion by the next opportunity.

The Militia law will not justify the Lieutenant of the County to permit two Men to serve as one, & to be discharged at the expiration of one Month, and I am not a little surprised that any Gentleman in that line would give it the least countenance.

Both Philad. & Bucks Counties have for a long time been greatly exposed to the insults and ravages of the enemy. Council, therefore, relying that you will do your utmost, not only to Protect the inhabitants, but to annoy the Enemy, have no doubt they will soon hear that a total stop is put to the insults of the Tories by your alacrity & good conduct.

I am, Sir,

Your very hum. Serv^t^.

Directed,

To B. Gen. Lacey.

Council to Col. Michael Haberstick, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 13, 1778.

Whereas Mr. James Patton has represented to this Council that he, as deputy waggon Mr of the district of your Battalion, hath duly summoned, according to law, divers waggons for the use of the army; that have not attended according to the sd summons; and that application having been made to you, you have neglected to furnish a Guard to assist in the due execution of the law herein. You are therefore hereby commanded forthwith to furnish a sufficient guard to the Constable of Your Township to bring in the delinquent waggons, according to law; hereof fail not, as you will answer the contrary hereof at your peril.

Given under my hand & seal, date afors'd.

By order of the Council.

Directed,

To Colo Michl Haberstick.

Robert Levers to President Wharton, 1778.

Easton, March 13th, 1778.

Sir,

A few days ago I wrote to Timothy Mattlack, Esquire, respecting Mr. Gordon & Mr. Jacobs, enclosing their Parolls, desiring he woud be pleased to lay my proceedings before the Supreme Executive Council. Mr Jacobs in particular is extreamly uneasy, as he says, he is afraid his Family may suffer by his absence, and begs I will lay this circumstance before your Excellency.

I find myself under a difficulty respecting a house in Easton. The House I live in belongs to one Conrad Ehrig, whose daughter is lately married to John Arndt, Esquire. My year expires the 1st April, and on the First of January last, my Landlord gave me notice to move out by the 1st April, alledging he wants the house for himself, and if I do not at that time move, intends to proceed agreeable to ye Law for Summary Ejectments, before Two Justices. Altho' as Barrack master, it shoud seem I shoud make my own quarters good, yet for examples Sake, I woud willingly & cheerfully act in Subjection to the Laws. There is not a house to be had in Easton. I woud therefore desire your Excellency will please to permit me to live at & remove the Prothonotary Office to Allenstown, or Northampton, which woud be far more convenient for the Inhabitants of the County generally, and at the same distance from the Place as Easton;

the supreme Executive Council have ordered me to remove the Public Papers to, shoud any sudden alarm happen. The only Inconvenience herein, I presume would fall on myself, as I must at Court Times, attend at Easton with such Public Papers and Records as may be necessary. If there were any possibility of getting a house in this Town, I woud not presume to give your Excellency this Trouble; but the houses are few here, at best, none of them scarce admit of taking in two families, with any degree of comfort, nor shoud I wish to live in that manner with the trust reposed in me.

I am, with the greatest Respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esquire.

Council to Committee of Congress, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, March 14, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The probable difficulty of obtaining Saddles from the farmers, &c., for the service of the cavalry, induced Council to enquire of the Sadlers what price they could make proper saddles for the purpose, they have made one as a pattern, for which they charge :—

Saddle, mail pelon, leathern girth and Circingle, -	26	00
Small leathern portmantua, - - - - -	6	10
One Houlster and Horse Shoe bag, - - -	7	10
Boot for a Carbine, - - - - - -	1	5
Double reined bridle (with a horseman's bitt, 60s.,)	6	
	£47	5

The price of a Common saddle is £22, and the farmers will expect the utmost value for such as may be had of them. Your directions in this matter will be complied with.

The sooner the Certificates are put into the hands of Council, the more successful the purchase of the horses may reasonably be expected to be. But we find that Mr. Smith has had no directions thereon.

Directed,

Honble Com. of Congress at Head Quarters.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 15 March, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to your Excellency, the 10th Inst., by Barry.

Your Excellency will receive with this two Acts of Congress, one of the 11th & one of the 12th Inst.; the latter, I am glad to say, does not apply at present to the State of Pennsylvania, & that therefore the transmission is an Act of Duty, more than of expedience.

1. For defraying the expences incurred in the States by carrying into effect the Act of Congress of the 9th Febry, for suspending or removing supernumerary & delinquent officers.

2. Requesting that each State will keep, constantly attending Congress, at least three Members during the War.

I am, with the utmost
Regard & Esteem, Sir,
Your Excellency's
Obedient humble
Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed.

On public Service.
Henry Laurens.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, &c., &c., Lancaster.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,
16th March, 1778.

Resolved,

That the board of war be directed to deliver over to the order of the president & council of Pensylvania the prisoners sent from that State to Virginia.

Resolved,

That the application on behalf of the Hon. John Penn & Benjamin Chew, that they may be delivered over to the order of the State of

Pensylvania, be referred to a com^e of three, who are directed to correspond with the said State, & report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Clark, Mr. James Smith, & Mr. Henry.

Extract from the minutes,

BELCHER P. SMITH, Sec'y pro Tem.

J. B. Smith to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

York Town, March 16, 1778.

Sir,

Above you have copy of a resolution this day passed by Congress. The second resolution was moved but referred to a Committee who are directed to confer with Council thereon. The Committeee are Mr. Clark, Mr. James Smith & Mr. Henry.

This affair appears to be of a delicate nature & may possibly tend to embarrass, if not to injure. The view of Council is, I apprehend, to be informed, if possible, of the intended precautions to be taken by the state, preventive of any ill effects from liberating Messrs. Penn & Chew.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your Excellency's most ob^t Serv^t,

JONA. B. SMITH.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,

March 16th, 1778.

Whereas Congress have not received information of the measures which the several states have, from time to time adopted, in consequence of their recommendations. And, whereas, such information, together with the concurrence of the respective legislatures, in vigorously executing the resolutions of Congress, essentially necessary to enable them to transact the important concerns of the united states.

Resolved,

That the governors & presidents of the said states be earnestly requested to transmit to Congress, as soon as possible, attested copies of the acts passed by their respective legislatures, in pursuance of recommendations of Congress, which they may have received, since the first day of November last, & of all acts which they may hereafter pass, in consequence of future recommendations.

Extract from the minutes.

BELCHER P. SMITH, Sec. p. Tem.

James Young to Council, 1778.

I beg beg leave to trouble you with a Copy of a letter I have received from Jon^n B. Smith, on the Waggon Service, with my answer to the same, (open,) which I beg you will be kind enough to seal and forward; my reason for sending it to you is, that the Hon^ble Council may see what injurious Charges are laid against innocent Men, by whom I will not undertake to say.

I am sorry to inform Council that a Brigade of Waggons from this County, who were order'd for Camp & to load at M^r Lesher's Mill, or where he might have loading for them; when they went there, no loading was ready, & therefore they were discharged. Thus the blame may be laid on the Waggon Master's Department without Cause. When Waggons are ready, we know not where to get loading: M^r Leshar has none, & M^r Eckhart very little. I am,

Respectfully, Sir,

your very Obed. Serv^t,

JA^s YOUNG.

Reading, 17^th March, 1778.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^r.

Charles Pettit, A. Q. M. G., to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Camp, Valley Forge, 17^th March, 1778.

Copy.

Sir,

Circumstances so strongly indicate the Enemy's Intention to evacuate Philadelphia, that there seems to be little room to Doubt. His Excellency, the General, has heretofore thought proper to order Preparations for a removal of the Army in Case of Need. Our strength of Teams is yet insufficient without Aid from the Country: His Excellency has therefore ordered me to call upon this State, and use every other means in my Power for a supply. The time it Takes to Call forth the Teams of the Country into actual Service in the usual mode, and the great number yet remaining to Compleat the Quotas Called for heretofore, induces me to doubt whether the making an additional Requisition now, will answer the End proposed. The Commissary's Department informs me they shall want on this occasion one hundred and fifty Teams more than they now have; if, therefore,

that number Can be added, Either by turning them out on the old order or on a new one, they would be essentially useful; I Canot avoid on this occasion, however, making a request to you for the one hundred and fifty Teams which I should wish might come to Camp in a few days, Loaded with Provisions & forage, and then be ready to attend the army with provisions, if they cou'd any how be Collected in the Counties near at hand, & speedily, they might be Essentially usefull, and I believe we shall not have occasion to Detain them many Days—probably not call upon them to Cross the River at all, as I believe Teams sufficient will be Ready in Jersey. You will please to inform me what may be Expected from this requisition, that I may place a proportionate Dependance on them.

I am, Sir,

your most obdt humb Servt,

CHARLES PETTIT, A. Q. M. Gl.

Col. James Young, W. M. Gl Penna.

19th May.

Sir,

In the Hurry of Business I neglected enclosing this to you yesterday by the Express, which I hope you will Excuse; being

your very Obed. Servt,

JAMES YOUNG.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To the Honble George Bryan, Esqr, Vice President State of Pennsylvania.

Abm. Clark &c., Committee of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York, 18th March, 1778.

Hond Sir,

Your Excellencies' Letter in Council of the 7th Instant, relative to the Prisoners sent from the state of Pennsylvania to Virginia, was read in Congress, and a resolution* thereupon entered into, directing the Board of War to deliver them to the Order of your state, which Resolution, we presume, has been transmitted in the usual channel.

The latter part of the Letter which mentions the case of the Honble John Penn and Benja Chew, Esqrs, occasions the subscribers to trouble your Excellency herewith, they having been appointed by Congress a Committee to Correspond with your state, & bring in a report to Congress on that subject. Those Gentlemen

* See page 378.

as Crown Officers, & holding Commissions under the authority of the King of Great Britain prior to the declaration of Independence, & yet taking no active part (that we know of against us,) since that Period, renders their situation very peculiar, in the first point of view they seem, under their present restraint, Prisoners of the United States; what is to be done with them consistent with Justice & the public safety, is a Question of much importance. If enlarged & permitted to go into Philadelphia what mischief may our Enemies doe under a Colour of their authority, even without their consent, if permitted to go at large in those parts of Pennsylvania in possession of the Whigs, as they are so intermixed with Tories, very mischieveous consequences may arise. If confined in Pennsylvania for refusing a Test, it may occasion discontent & caballing.

Congress have no objection (we are inclined to think) to their being returned under the authority of the state, provided it can be done without danger to the state of Pennsylv[a] in particular, or the United States in general.

The Committee request such Information on the subject as your state may think proper to communicate, to enable them to form their opinion, and report to Congress for their determination.*

We have the Honour to be, with great respect,

your Excelliencies most obed[t] servants,

ABRA. CLARK,
JOHN HENRY, Jun[r].,
JA[s] SMITH.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun[r], Esq[r], President of the state of Pennsylvania.

Jos. Watkins to Council, 1778.

Lebanon, March 18[th], 1778.

Sir,

I have just received yours of the 15[th] Instant, but am sorry have it not in my power to comply with the order of the Council, having some time ago sent all the Block Tin that was in my care to Carlisle. But a Brigade of Waggons will go from this Place in a few Days, and shall order one Block of Tin to be sent down here (if it is not already used) and shall forward it and the Lead as quick as possible.

I am,

Your very humble servant,

JO[s] WATKINS,
C. O. & M. Stores.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq[r].

* See answer, p. 389.

Pres. Wharton to Col. Richard McCallister, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 18th, 1778.

Sir,

The Council having judged it necessary to call the eighth class of militia of your county into actual service, you are hereby authorised and directed to send the said 8th class of militia as expeditiously as possible to this borough, to be further disposed of as the Council shall direct.

The Continental troops now here are ordered to camp, and will probably set out on Monday next, from which time there will be no guards here over the ammunition stores, &c[a], until the militia arrive, which makes it absolutely necessary to forward them with all possible expedition, such as are first ready must be sent forward without waiting for the whole getting ready. The Council depend on your activity and zeal in forwarding this class without the least delay.

By order of Council,

THO[s] WHARTON, Jun[r],

Presid[t].

Directed,

To Colonel Richard M[c]Callister, Lieu[t] of York County.

V. P. Bryan to Assembly, 1778.

Sir,

In a bill printed for Consideration, intituled a supplement to an Act intituled an Act to continue part of an Act, &c., concerning the nightly watch of the City of Philadelphia, it is set forth that the Secretary & Clerk of the market have had the letting of the Market Houses, stalls & stands in the Market places, and of the ferries, wharffs, & public Landing places in Philad[a]. This seems to me a very mistaken representation; one that will very inconveniently appear in a Law. Mr. Matlack never had any thing in charge on the subject, nor do I believe he has medled with the business. Mr. Redman, Clerk of the Market, has alone the charge of the Stalls. Those in the shambles, between the Court house & Third street, were ruined by the Enemy, & have been restored by means of money advanced by the Butchers, who, in consideration thereof, are intituled to hold them without further return for two years, from last fall. I know of no legal right by which the corporation rented any ferry in the city, save that at the western end of High street, over the Schuylkill, with which an Act of Assembly vested them. The

trifling rates of ferriage, & the intervention of a bridge built by the public, a circumstance w^ch^ rendered these rates illegal, with the hopes of something being done by the Legislature, from time to time, to put the passage over Schuylkill on some proper footing, has prevented any bargain with the tenant there. In this situation it seems odd to read in this bill a proposed grant of Ferries, when it is to be hoped that a bridge will, at all times hereafter, be maintained over that River, & when the system on which this depends, is closely connected with the Ferry house.

The Landing places were let out by the late Corporation of the city, by what right I know not. They were public ground given for the free use of the inhabitants. If it be thought best to keep them in repair, by levying wharfage for wood & other necessaries put on shore, it will be necessary that proper authority be vested in the assessors and wardens for that purpose. As Council do not think the claim or practice of the late Mayor and Commonalty to be safe ground for demanding a rent, in consideration of such a wharfage rate, they have not farmed them out, tho' they were charged generally with the care of the City Estate.

The Gentlemen of the Council do not wish you to burden your minutes with this explanation, but they believe you will make a proper use of it before the bill is finished.

I am, D^r^ Sir,
your most.obed^t^ serv^t^,
G. B.

P. S. For six-pence in the pound additional rate, read not exceeding 6*d.* in the pound, & say how often it may be levied—whether yearly.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

Lancaster, March 18th, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have received information that John Hubley, Esq^r^, is ordered to remove the ammunition now in this borough further westward, and as it evidently is necessary to have a supply of catridges for the guards, &c., they have ordered Mr. Hubley to deliver Major Wirtz a quantity of powder, sufficient for 20,000 catridges, which he is directed to make up immediately. Of this I am commanded by Council to acquaint you in expectation of your laying it before the Board of War for their approbation.

I am with great respect,
your very humble servant,
TIMOTHY MATLACK, Sec^y^.

Directed,

To the Sec^y^ of the Board of War.

Jon'n B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, March 19th, 1778.

Sir,

Upon an application from the settlers at Wioming or as they call it, "The Town of Westmoreland," Congress agreed to establish one Company of troops there for its immediate defence for one year. Congress has expressed this in the same terms in which a similar resolution passed two years ago, & which I believe was adopted on the consent of the Delegates from Connecticut & this State; at the same time establishments were formed for the defence of the other frontiers by establishing other corps both with regard to Pensylv. & Virginia. The house is prepared for the same measures now on application (I believe) for that purpose. But the affair I imagined had been left to the Commissioners now at Pittsburgh at least as far as it respects the Vicinity of that place.

In a letter received from Gen[l] Washington yesterday he speaks of the Enemys representation concerning the treatment of the flag bearers,* & seems to labour under considerable difficulties on that head. An order passed Congress some time ago for obtaining from the Hon[ble] Council a state of that transaction as far as Council or persons under their authority were concerned, I wish it were done.

The committee ordered to report on the memorial of the assembly & Council have not yet had an opportunity of laying before Congress their report. I have seen what they propose. Among other matters, they recommend that the price fixed by the State be adhered to, & that the waggon hire be settled agreeable to the act of our State.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
your Excellencys
obed[t] & very Humble Servant
JON'A B. SMITH.

Directed,

On publick service, J. B. Smith.
To His Excellency The President of the State of Pennsylvania
Lancaster.

* See pages 217, 233, 268.

James Hamilton to Council.

Northampton, March 19, 1778.

Sir,

I take the liberty through you to adress myself to the President and Council, for leave to return to my family, and to the care of my private affairs, which have already suffer'd greatly, and must continue to suffer by my absence, and as I have reason to be thankful for your former civilities I trust and have confidence that you will not discontinue them on the present occasion, but on the contrary, will countenance and enforce my request, with all the weight and influence you have in the publick Council of the Government.

I cannot allow myself to believe that the Gentlemen of the Council have any personal ill will to me, being conscious that I have never deserved it from any one of them; and if through the whole course of this unhappy contest, I have demean'd myself in such manner as to give them no just cause of offence, excepting only that I have not actually join'd myself to the party they espouse, I hope they will please to think, that the very great losses already sustained in my private fortune, with a six month's restraint from the society of my nearest and best connections, a sufficient punishment to one of my advanced age, for having *merely* adopted a speculative opinion, which I am persuaded cannot have had the least ill effect upon the cause they are engaged in.

But a circumstance of vastly more importance to me, and which indeed, is the immediate cause of my present application, is that an unhappy disorder in my face, for the cure of which I some years since undertook a voyage to England, and thought it perfectly accomplish'd, hath again made its appearance with very alarming symptoms, which will require the assistance of the very ablest Physicians and surgeons to remove, and which if not speedily removed, will probably cost me my life; and I am sure there is no need to tell you that the Gentlemen of the Faculty in these parts, without the least reflection on the skill of any of them, are not such as one can *solely* confide in for the care of so dangerous a Disorder.

I shall esteem it a particular favour, if you will lay this application before Mr. President Wharton and the members of the Executive Council, who upon a due consideration of the several matters alledged will I hope be induced to grant me this permission to return forthwith to my own house, where not only the assistance of Physicians &c, but the necessary attendance about my own person can be had with much more convenience than can possibly be found here, in that situation, I shall certainly endeavour to live, if I do live, as inoffensively as I have hitherto done, and I am not sensible that any complaint, much less any charge to the Contrary, hath ever been made against me by any person whatsoever.

I am not in the least apprehensive that any Gentleman who knows me can be so unjust as to suspect me of exageration in the above state of my case, with a view to excite compassion in the breasts of those I address myself to. Were I capable of so fraudulent an attempt, I should heartily despise myself, and freely acknowledge that I ought to be despised by all others for so base a prevarication.

If the President and Council shall please to grant my request, as I flatter myself they will, and for which I shall think myself highly oblig'd to them, I have only further to request, that it may be done as speedily as their forms will allow, all delays in my situation being pernicious and dangerous, and I must desire the favour of you to expedite as much as possible, the passage for me, my servants and baggage, by the Bearer Jacob Baughman——whom I send on purpose to receive their resolution, and to convey it to me without loss of time.

I am with much respect
Sir, your most
obedient Servant,
JAMES HAMILTON,

Postscript. Since writing the above I have had the satisfaction of seeing Doctor Shippen, whose certificate respecting my case I have inclosed, by which the President & Council will perceive that I have not attempted to impose upon them in the account I gave of my case, and which I beg you will likewise lay before them.

J. H.*

March 20th, 1778.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire.

Northampton, 20 March, 1778.

At Mr. Hamilton's request I have carefully inspected the sore on his nose, and am of opinion that it requires the immediate care and assistance of the ablest Physicians & Surgeons, to cure & remove it; and that any considerable delay in administering the remedies for that purpose may & will be attended with the worst consequences to his health.

W. SHIPPEN, jr., D. G.

* See page 383.

Gen. Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, March, 19th, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed resolution was this Evening proposed to Congress, and after some debate, committed to the Delegates of this State, we therefore request Instructions from The Hon'ble the Council on the head, with their result on the other matters referred to them by us as soon as possible. A resolution has passed Congress recommending to this state to call out five hundred Militia, which will be forwarded to you by the President to which please to be referred. I am in behalf of my Colleagues very respectfully,

Sir, y^{r} most
ob^{t} hum^{l} Serv^{t},
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r Esq., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, March 19th, 1778.

Resolved,

That the government of the State of Pennsylvania be requested to Station five hundred militia at the following places in this State, under active and prudent officers, viz.

Two hundred men at Easton.
One hundred at Bethlehem.
Two hundred at Reading.

For the defence of the magazines of military, & other stores & provisions at those places, & to keep the communication secure from any sudden incursions of the enemy, until the board of war or General Washington shall think it expedient to discharge the said militia.

Extract from the minutes,
Belcher P. Smith, Sec. p. Tem.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, March 19th, 1778.

Resolved,

That it be earnestly recommended to the several States to take the most speedy & effectual measures for raising their quotas of men, agreeably to the resolutions of Congress of the 26th ult., & to cause the men so raised, or which had been raised previous to the passing that resolve, to march to their places of rendezvous without the smallest delay; taking care that as many as possible come armed & accoutered.

And that a more certain, & adequate supply of accoutrements may be provided.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to each State to appoint some suitable person or persons to get made with all possible dispatch, as many compleat setts of accoutrements & spare bayonet sheaths, as shall be sufficient for their respective quotas of troops; the cartridge boxes to be made to hold twenty-nine rounds of cartridges when made up with ounce balls, & the cover of good substantial leather, with a small cover or flap under it, that the ammunition may be most effectually guarded against rain; and to prevent impositions from the workmen, that proper inspectors be appointed to examine & receive the accoutrements, with orders to reject such as are bad, & insufficient; & that the accoutrements so provided shall be sent forward with the troops, or as soon after as possible:

That in case in any State they have quantities of tin, instead of the cartouch boxes, an equal number of tin cartridge cannisters be furnished agreeably to a pattern or description to be sent by the board of war.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y

Rec'd from Secy's Office 27th.

Arch'd McClean to President Wharton, 1778.

York, March 20th 1778.

May it please Your Excellency.

On Yesterday I sent a few lines to the Council which had long lain by me for the Want of a safe and Certain opportunity of Conveyance, and tho' the Time is now short, unto which I have appointed the People to come for their Licences, yet the shortness of my being acquainted with the Opportunity by Mr. Hahn the bearer thereof prevented me from being more particular, and of requesting That the Licences may be sent by him;—I therefore now beg the Favour of Council that they may be sent either by Mr. Hahn, or by the Bearer hereof Col. McAlister, either of whom will so much oblige me as to bring them, and I the rather request it, That the Time is so short I cannot now go over myself, and on next Week, I have appointed to deliver them to the People.

The inclosed application came to my hands in its present state on last Evening, and I submit it to the Council to give it its due Weight The Matters set forth in it are Facts, and if the Acts of General Assembly are sufficiently clear to make the Appointments Legal in this Mode, I will venture to say the appointment is necessary, & the Persons unexceptionable and besides are recommended by some of the first Gentlemen in the Place.

I would humbly propose it to your Excellency and there rest it, whether the Council are not enabled by the Constitution to recommend necessary Matters to the Assembly,—If so I presume as the times now are, That a farther allowance, or the augmentation of the Fees of Civil and Judicial Officers are at this Time necessary, as in their Endeavours to serve the General cause, they are exio officio in a great Degree restrained from other Resources for the obtaining even a common Living, and the Fees by Law being inadequate, it is hard if they must sink, in their Endeavours to be subservient to the salvation of their Country.

In that Case I should Think That instead of Regulating the whole Table, That for the present only the doubling the allowance of all Officers, would be short and easy and not inadequate.

Pardon this Trouble, The Bearing being on Journey, I have not Time to revise it.

I am with great Sincerity

your Excellency's most

Obedient Humble Servant

ARCH'D McCLEAN.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun'r, Esq., President, &c.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress.

March 20th, 1778.

Resolved,

That the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania be requested to take measures that the law, lately passed in that state, for the express purpose of filling magazines for the use of the continental army, be effectually executed by the Commissioners named in said law, for obtaining the 30,000 barrels of flour directed to be laid up on the east side of Susquehannah, and such other kinds of provisions as may be in their power to procure, unless Congress shall find that quantity of flour unnecessary to be procured, & shall give orders accordingly:

That it is expected from those of the Commissioners, who act on the west side of Susquehannah, that they use their endeavours to purchase & lay up such quantities of provisions, & in such places as the board of war shall deem necessary for the use of the army in case of emergency:

That Congress conceive all cause of complaint against the instructions of the board of war to their superintendents must now cease, as three of said superintendants have been dismissed; and it is expressly injoined upon the others to conform to the regulations of the state in which they are, from time to time, employed:

That the president of the state of Pennsylvania be informed, that whatever rate the legislature of that state has fixed for the wages of waggons, shall be paid for the waggons of that state employed in the service of the continent, since those rates were enacted:

That maj^{r} gen^{l} Mifflin, the late quarter master general, be directed to cause an immediate payment to be made of all wages justly due from him to the inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania, whose waggons have been employed by him in the continental service:

That the Commissioners, appointed by a law of Pennsylvania, to fill certain magazines for the use of the continental army, be directed to confine their purchases within the limits of their own state.

Extract from the minutes,

BELCHER P. SMITH, Sec. p. Tem.

V. P. Geo. Bryan to Wm. Gray and John Little, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, 21st March, 1778.

Gentlemen,

By direction of the board of war at York Town, in their Letter of the 19th Instant, we order you to issue such provision as you may have procured under the powers given to you by the Act of Assembly

for the better supply of the Armies of the United States of America, for the victualing of the Militia of your county of Northumberland, called out to actual service by Samuel Hunter, Esquire, Lieutenant.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^{t} Serv^{t},

G. B., Vice presid^{t}.

Directed,

To Mess^{rs} W^{m} Gray & John Little, Northumberland.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 21st March, 1778.

Sir,

The last I had the honor of writing to you was dated the 15th Inst., by Messenger Sharp. On the 10th I transmitted to your Excellency, by the hand of the Reverend M^{r} Duffill, a Packet containing six Commissions for cruizing vessels, together with Bonds & Instructions. This Intimation proceeds from an application which was made to me yesterday by the Honble M^{r} J. B. Smith, for commissions for the use of the state. If a further supply is wanted, or that the packet above alluded to hath not reached your Excellency, please to inform me & your Excellency's commands shall be immediately obeyed.

This will be accompanied by four Acts of Congress, to which I beg leave to refer.

1. 16th March. For obtaining necessary information of the determination of each of these states respecting Acts of Congress transmitted to each, from and after the 1st November, 1777.

2. The same date. For delivering over to the order of the President & Council of Pennsylvania certain Prisoners confined in Virginia, & for appointing a Committee to correspond with the state of Pennsylvania on the Case of the Honble John Penn & Benja. Chew.

3. 19th. Requesting the Government of this state to station certain numbers of Militia, for the defence of Magazines of Military & other stores, at Easton, Bethlehem & Reading.

4. 20th. For filling Magazines of Provisions; Payment of Waggon hire due to the Inhabitants of these states, &c.

I have the honour to be,
With great Regard,
Sir, your Excellency's
Most obedient humble servt,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

To His Excellency President Wharton, Pennsylvania.

Gen. Lacey to President Wharton 1778.

Camp, Doyles Town, March 21st, 1778.

Sir,

I wrote you from the Billet the 4th Instant, an Answer to which I have long expected, but still am disappointed; I at length begin to conclude the Letter has miscarried. The times of the Cumberland County Militia is expired, & the York County is the greatest part up in a few days, when I shall be left again in a helpless condition, with one Battallion of but little better than two hundred & fifty men fit for duty; pray, consider me, and let me have such numbers as Council may think necessary to answer the End expected in this Quarter.

These three Weeks last past, my movements has so baffled the Enemy that their Light Horse has not dared to show their Heads any distance out of their lines; a great check has also been put to the communication between the City and Country. Fourteen of the Villains has made their escape out of my Guard, and fled immediately to the Enemy; I have fifteen or sixteen Yet confined, waiting to know the Council's pleasure what is best to be done with them.

I should be glad Council would give me permission to raise a troop of Militia Horse during the Campaign; if the State would find Arms & Accoutrements for them, I am satisfied I could easily raise a good Troop.

Inclosed is a return of my Brigade.

I remain, with Respect,
Dear Sir,
Your Most obedient
Humble Servant,
JOHN LACEY, jun.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun., Esq., Lancaster.
℔ favour of
Colo. Buchanan

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 21, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Hnble. J. B. Smith's letters of the 16th and 19th, and one from the Hnble. D. Roberdeau, Esq^r, of the 19th, have been read in Council.

The sentiments of Council respecting M^r Penn & M^r Chew will be communicated to the Committee of Congress* appointed to confer with us on that subject, as soon as the business is matured, which will probably be in a day or two.

The Town Major of this borough was ordered by Council, on the 18th, to add 20,000 cartridges to the stock on hand, as a provision against emergencies, and they communicated this order to the Board of War. Perhaps this will answer the intention mentioned in Gen^l Roberdeau's letter.

On the 16th Feb'y, a full state of the affair relating to the Flagg† was sent to the Board, and the depositions relating to it, so far as the Council had interfered, was forwarded at the same time.—To that Board, therefore, we refer you, and they will, no doubt, inform you of their part of that transaction, by which you will be possessed of the whole facts.

P. S. Since the within was written it has been suggested in Council that the fisheries on Deleware may afford a large supply of fish, perhaps to the amount of six thousand Barrels, if salt can be had. This deserves immediate attention, for if any thing is done there is not a moment to spare as the season is at hand and lasts but a short time. Should Congress incline to do any thing in this matter the following gentlemen appear to be the most proper persons to employ in this business:

Colo. Coperthwaite, at Bordentown.
M^r W^m Milnor, at
M^r Langston Carlisle, Burlington.

Indorsed

To the honble., the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

* See page 367. † See page 268.

Council to Robert Levers, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 21st, 1778.

Sir,

This Day I received your Letter of the 13th Inst, by Colo Deane, which I layd before Council; they are of opinion, in case you are obliged to remove from the House you now occupy, and cannot procure another in Easton, that Allentown, or near it will be a convenient place for Publick Papers to be deposited, and therefore can have no objection to your request.

Council are of opinion That a Parole ought not to be taken from any person travelling from one County to another; but that the Laws should be put into immediate execution. Those who will not take the Test prescribed by the Law, they must suffer the penalty of disobedience.

I am, sir,

your very Hum. sert.

P. S. I beg to know if there is a prospect of procuring Waggons —the Roads are now good—your Letter informing me that they had not sett off, gave me a good deal of pain, as our poor soldiers are in want of Cloathing.

T. W.

Directed,

To Robert Levers, Esqr, Easton.

B. Gen. Lacey to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, March 22d, 1778.

Dear Sir,

The most Distressing complaints comes concerning some Vilians belonging to the Cumberland County Militia, stealing of Horses.

I most earnestly desire some method may be taken to apprehend the thieves; a search or examination will be very necessary for that purpose, when they come to Lancaster, or expresses sent to the ferries where they Cross; and unless great injustice is done them by Com-

plaint to me, a Considerable number of good Horses will be found amongst them.

I am, Sir,

Your mo. obed't S^t^,

JOHN LACEY, Jr.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Jr., Pres^t^ Executive Council, Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

"That to check any insurrection of the disaffected & to prevent small parties of the enemy traversing the State of Pensylvania, it be recommended to the government of the said state forthwith to deposit in the hands of the county Lieutenants of the well affected counties of the said States sufficient quantities of ammunition, to be used on any emergency."

Indorsed, March 23.

Council to Jacob Morgan, &c., 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 24, 1778.

Sir,

Congress having ordered guards to be placed at several towns in this state, and among others, that one hundred men be stationed at Bethlehem, and two hundred at Easton, for the defence of the magazines of military and other stores and provisions at those places, and to keep the communication secure from any sudden incursions.

You are hereby ordered to furnish, immediately, three hundred men, for the above said purposes, out of the class or classes whose tour of duty next follows those which have been last ordered out, and station them at the places above mentioned. This service it is expected the people of your county will enter upon with great alacrity and readiness.

Directed,

To Jacob Morgan and John Weitzle, Esqrs., Lieuts., of the counties of Berks and Northampton.

Council to James Hamilton, 1778.

Lancaster, March 24, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 19th I laid *before the Council the moment it came to my hand, but I have not received any direction what reply to make to it, nor, from the present situation of affairs, do I see any propriety or use in keeping your messenger waiting any longer for an answer.

A Committee of Congress was appointed last week to confer with Council on yours and other like cases, which will probably produce a decision within some very short time; this may, perhaps, be one reason why no direction is given me concerning your application. I shall be extremely unhappy if any inattention of mine should delay a determination of such importance to any man, as that which you request is to you—my own feelings will therefore prevent the danger of a neglect on my part.

It ought not to give you offence if I observe that what might have been considered as the espousing of a party on, or before the 3rd day of July, 1776, became on the day following not a *party*, but a *national* distinction, and every man within the State was bound, from the nature of civil society, to take a part with it, otherwise he could not be entitled to protection from it, but must be considered as the subject of the state to which he had actually acknowledged allegiance.

It would be injustice to forbear mentioning to you that the General Assembly have, under their consideration, a law which must very materially affect you if it should be passed, as it is proposed, obliging all persons who now hold, or who have heretofore held offices under the authority of G. B., to renounce the Commission under which they have acted, by taking an oath of allegiance to this State as now established, on pain of forfeiting their goods and Chattels, lands & tenements, and being and treated as enemies to the State.

The enclosed law is enacted.

I am with great respect,

you very humble servant,

T. M., Secy.

James Hamilton, Esqr.

* See page 372.

President Wharton to Committee of Congress, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, March 26, 1778.

Gen^{t},

The persons appointed to purchase horses, agreeable to your directions, have entered upon that duty, but find it impossible to proceed without money; and we are sorry to say that the prices of horses is advancing very rapidly. The bearer, Col'l Watson, has attended here for the purpose of obtaining money, w^{ch} we are not able to supply him with. He may, perhaps, forward the business, if you shall think it proper, to pay into his hands a sum sufficient to enable him to proceed on in the purchase.

The money must be had, or the purchase will be at a stand in every county.

I am Gentlemen,
with the greatest respect,
your very humble servant,

T. W., Jr., P.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Francis Dana and others, late Committee from Congress, at Camp, York Town.

Gen'l John Lacey Jr., to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Bucks County, March 26th, 1778.

Sir,

Your favour of the 12 Instant, has just come to hand; I have made every disposition to cover the Country from the cruel ravages of the British mercinaries, that my numbers would admit of, & I have to flatter myself that they have been attended with tolerable success, especially with regard to stopping the small parties from ransacking the Country; but to stop the intercourse & marketing is impossible, with the numbers I have. I wish Council would consider those infamous wretches that my parties take going to the Enemy with marketing, and appoint some way for their tryal.

Was a Jury to set near my Camp for the purpose, I could easily

furnish them with evidences against the Villains, which would be difficult to do at a distance on many accounts, and at the same time protect them.

Inclosed is a return of my Brigade, which is disposed of in the following manner, Viz.

	Cts	Sub	Sts	R. & F.
On Commd with a drove of Cattle to H'd Qrs,	3	5	8	80
On Commd with the Stores, Arms, &c., at Doyles Town, - - - - -		2	3	30
On Commd to take a person who has passed a large sum of Counterfeit money, - -		2	2	20
On Commd forraging & guarding some cattle belonging to the Militia, - - - -		1	1	18
Total on Command,	3	10	14	148

The remainder, which is one hundred & sixty-two, I keep on the different Roads Leading to the Enemies lines; from the detail above you will find my scouts cannot be very large.

I remain with respect,

Your Excellency's most obt Hble Servt,

JOHN LACEY, Jr.

P.S. The entry in my last return of the time of the Northampton militia, wats rong, which will appear by the Inclosed return. My numbers are quite too small to answer the purpose expected, I beg Council will Consider me. His Excellency Gen. Washington informed me in one of his letters, that Gen. Armstrong prommised him one thousand militia should be kep up on this side the Schoolkill, by the State of Pennsylvania.

J. L.

Directed,

On Publick Service. His Excelly Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esqr., Lancaster.

Col. Richard Butler to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Valley Forge, 26th March, 1778.

Sir,

It is with pain I sit down to address your Excellency at a time that I am Sensible your mind is taken up in the many calls of your Country, that demand your Care & Particular attention.

But I think I should be wanting in the trust you have reposed in me, were I to neglect leting you know the wants of the Regt I have the honr to Command in the Service of ye States; I find Sir, that the men are good and can be much depended on as brave soldiers, and that nothing but their Naked Situation induces any of them to leave me, the want of Cloathing is the first thing that makes a soldier think little of himself, the want of pay, & provisions irregularly servd, will make him uneasy, but that is not the case with these, they are well paid & fed; Therefore I think had I cloathing for them I would venture to vouch for their Conduct, both as to their bravery & fidelity, and am certain it would be very Conducive to their health. I am sorry to inform your Excellency that there has not been a blanket to five men through the whole winter, and the Chief of them but one shirt, and many none, (Indeed I may almost say, with Sir John Falstaff, one and a half to a Comp'y,) this your Excellency may depend is the case, but I will do my Endeavour to keep them together, and nurse them as well as I can, in hopes your Excellency and the Supreme Executive Council will afford me relief as soon as possible. Shall hope the honor of a line on the subject, as it will give great weight to my assertions of speedy relief.

I Remain with the most profound respect

Your Excellency's most obedt & very humble Servt,

RICH'D BUTLER, Col. 9th P. Regt.*

Directed,

His Excellency Governor Wharton, at Lancaster.

Commissioners for Western Department to President Wharton, 1778.

We the Commissioners for the Western Department, acting under the Authority of Congress, having in obedience to our Instructions, notice being first given to all the neighbouring Counties, proceeded to an Enquiry into the Conduct of Colonel George Morgan, Agent for Indian affairs, and continued the same by adjournments from the

* See page 404.

twentieth to the twenty Sixth Instant; do, after the clearest and most satisfactory Testimonies, wholly acquit the said Colonel George Morgan of the Charges against him, of Infidelity in his public trust, and disaffection to the American Cause. And we testify that we are possest of the Knowledge of various Facts, and Circumstances, evincing not only his Attachment to that Cause, but also an uncommon degree of Diligence in discharging the duties of his Employment, and attention to the Interests of the United States. And therefore are of Opinion he ought to be restored to the fullest Confidence of his Country.

Pittsburgh, March 27th, 1778.

Signed, SAMP. MATHEWS,
GEO. CLYMER,
SAM'L McDOWEL.

Copy.

GEO. MORGAN.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Governor of Pennsylvania at Lancaster.

Favoured by Colo, John Nevill.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Mount Joy, 27th March, 1778.

Dear Sir,

It's at last Concluded to throw the Penns[a] Troops into one Division after reducing them to ten Regiments, which I believe will be as many as we can fill. I have but little hopes of being supplyed with many Recruits, unless the Officers in the back Counties meet with more success than those in Philad[a] and Chester. An Officer from the latter came in yesterday after being out five weeks without a single Recruit.

I would beg leave to suggest the Expediency of Employing a greater number of Officers on that Business in Berks, Lancaster, York & Cumberland Counties, as the most likely places to meet with success. I fear all our exertions in this way will fall far short of our wishes, and that nothing but a Draft will be adequate to the Business.

It's rumoured that the Enemy have avacuated Road Island, and are drawing all their force to one *focus*; if this should be the case, as we have grounds to think it is, they will be too powerfull for us in the field unless great and speedy supplies are thrown in; it therefore becomes the duty of this State to make an Immediate and

Effectual Exertion to Compleate her Quota of men. But whilst this is doing let me Intreat you Sir, not to neglect providing the Linnen Overalls and other Clothing to enable us to take the Field with some *Eclait*, which will add both spirit and Health to your Troops—for you may rest assured that nine out of ten of the Deaths and Desertions in this army are owing to Dirt and nakedness.

I have the Happiness to Inform your Excellency that the Troops of this state enjoy a much greater share of Health than any other part of the army, and I pledge my Reputation to keep them so, on Condition that I can be provided with Linnen and other Clothing.

It's to you, Sir, that we look up to for those matters, and in this case we consider you as our Common father.

Adieu, my Dear Sir,

and believe me

Yours most sincerely,

ANTY. WAYNE.

Directed,

On publick Service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, 27th March, 1778.

Resolved,

That in case the State of Pennsylvania shall grant Col. Thomas Hartley the State bounty for the men that may be inlisted in that State for his regiment, the State shall have credit in her quota of troops for such men.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Council to Abraham Clarke, &c., 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 27, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 18th* has been several times under the consideration of Council, and an answer thereto would have been given, before this time, but that it was judged to be prudent to wait a few days for the determination of the Hn'ble House of General Assembly, respecting a bill, which has now been several times read in the house, which will apply to the case of Mr. Penn, Mr. Chew, and others, who have held offices under the authority of the King of Great Britain. Council observe, with great satisfaction, the prudent precaution and care of Congress, in this matter, which appears to be particularly interesting to Pennsylvania;—and, we suppose it is expected that we shall speak freely on the subject.

These Gentlemen, at the request of Congress, have been arrested by the authority of the state, and although they have been sent out of the state, it is not understood that the authority of it over them has been given up, or that Congress claimed authority over them For if they had there does not appear to us any reason why Congress should not have arrested these Gentlemen under that right, instead of calling on the State to do it. We conceive they cannot be considered at present as Prisoners of War, as they have been arrested by civil authority, and that authority is accountable for its conduct therein, and for the disposal of them.

This Council would find, at a future day, great Difficulties in accounting for the arresting of these Gentlemen, permitting them to be sent out of the state and there kept a great length of time, if it is admitted that their refusal in any sort to acknowledge the authority of the State as free and independent, and neglecting to resign and renounce the commissions which they held under the King of Great Britain, was not taking a part against us. When men in their senses, possessed of great fortunes, refuse or neglect to join in the necessary measures for the defence of the country in which those estates lie, it is the strongest possible evidence that such men are friends to the enemies of that country; and that the time when they may safely join those enemies must be the only point which remains to be by them determined upon. The arrest of those Gentlemen was unquestionably proper. At a time of great confusion, when the enemy was advancing to our Capitol, it was in their power to have done us great injury by heading a party against the few Whigs which remained in it, and by other means, which are now wholly out of their power. But was Mr. Penn now in Philadelphia, we know

* See pages 364, 367.

of no authority which could be exercised by him, under the pretence of being Governor of Pennsylvania, which could do any injury to the general cause of America, or to this state, should General Howe be disposed to judge differently in the case of Pennsylvania from that of New York with respect to the powers of civil government, which we see no great reason to apprehend that he would.

It is necessary to enquire not only what will be the consequences of the enlargement of those Gentlemen from confinement, but also what will be the consequences of continuing them prisoners, in order to form a judgment of what is right to be done in their case? America succeeds—These Gen^{l} return into the possession of their great estates, call out for the cause of their long confinement, clamour against it as unjust; their dependants and connexions, and the dissatisfied of all parties join together and re-establish them in the government. What must be the consequences to those who have struggled with the present dangers & difficulties? There will be no room for them in this state. Suppose it possible, and that Great Britain shall conquer us. Their case will then be the best possible: We shall have done every thing in the power of men to do to re-establish them in their former power. What have they done to entitle them to such favours from us?

The Case, which you state, of their being enlarged to reside in the state without taking the oath of allegiance to it, is impossible. Such a thought is not conceived by us. And as to their being confined for not taking the test, and occasioning a clamour: If they refuse to take it they will, after the passing of the law now under consideration, be considered as enemies of the state.

Council to Brig. General Lacey, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, March 27, 1778.

Sir,

Inclosed is copy of what I wrote to you on the 12th instant. The difficulty of procuring the evidence against such persons as may be taken going with provisions to the enemy, necessary to convict them at a distance so great from the place of action as this borough is, and many other weighty reasons make it appear to be best to try them in the usual military way at camp.

Two classes are ordered from the militia of Cumberland County, one from Philad^{a} County, and one from York county is more forward.

As to the raising of militia horse for the Campaign they are not requested by Congress, but on the contrary, measures are taking for recruiting the Horse in regular service, and Congress have expressed

their sentiments, by the resolve enclosed, of the service of the militia horse—and there is not arms in the power of Council fit for such service, we therefore cannot think it expedient to go into it upon any other principles than those recommended by Congress.

It will be wholly fruitless to enquire after stolen horses unless they are described very particularly, and then perhaps advertisements sent timely may be most successful.

Indorsed,

To Brigadier General Lacey.

Henry Spyker to Council, 1778.

To the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Henry Spyker Paymaster of Berks County Militia, Begs leave to Acquaint your Honours,

That it was out of his power to pay off the Militia of said County, for want of Money, he having advanced some money to the several Militia, but not one of the classes being fully paid. That the militia of s^{d} County in general are very uneasy for their pay, and become exceedingly troublesome to him, and dread they will not so Chearfully step forth when Called upon, unless they be first satisfied for their former Tower.

Therefore Humbly pray your Honours will be pleased to Enable him to pay of said Militia.

I am with the greatest
respect your Honours
very Hu^{ble} Serv^{t}
HENRY SPYKER.

Lancaster, March 28th, 1778.

P. S, I would further beg leave to observe that some of the 1st Battalion of said Militia left Camp a few days before the Expiration of their Tower, without being regularly discharged, I would therefore request your Honour's direction, whether to pay them or not.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to President Wharton, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 28th March, 1778

Sir;

Yours of the 14th last month I Received by Captain William Wilson and shall observe the instructions to me in regard of asistance from the Militia to apprehend Deserters, and likewise to furnish these officers you have mentioned with money for the Recruteing Service, suppose the substitution money of this County will be but a small sum when all Collected,

The fifth Class of the Militia of this County, is now doing Duty on the Frontiers under the Command of Lieu[t] Col. Henry Antis, which is all the field Officers I allowed untill the sixth and seventh classes is Ordered out, and if they are to be stationed on the frontiers we shall be badly off for arms to accommodate three Classes at one time, for in case the Indians has any intention of Committing Hostilitys it will be very soon now as the snow is partly all gone, when I was down last winter, I endeavoured all lay in my power to Purchase some good guns, but could get none that was worth Buying only two rifles, and them with sixty ordinary muskets we had made for this County, is all the Publick arms amongst us, I am geting all the arms that's worth Repairing put in order, and has promised the Gunsmiths' their pay for so doing.

I am your Excency's

most Obed[t]

humbl Serv[t]

SAM'L. HUNTER, Lieut.

N. B. The Recruiting Officers in this County has prity good success for the time, they have got ten Recrutes.

S. H,

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Circular of Board of War, 1778.

War Office, 28th March, 1778.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to inclose you the resolves of Congress of the 19th inst., respecting the troops destined to reinforce the grand army. Unfortunately, after they were passed, they lay several days before they were handed to this board; but, they demand the most immediate attention and execution. What gave rise to the first, was

an apprehension that the recruits might be detained in their respective States 'till they had been innoculated. This, the present posture of our affairs absolutely forbids. The campaign will soon open, and with all the diligence practicable it is to be feared the reinforcements will not arrive in time to enable the commander in chief to take measures the most necessary & advantageous before the enemy get reinforced. General Washington has received intelligence that they are embarking troops at New York and Rhode Island, destined, (it is said) for Philadelphia, and he is to the last degree anxious to have the reinforcements speedily to join him in the first place, that he may be prepared for defence; in the second place, to take advantage of any favourable circumstance which may happen to injure the enemy.

The recommendation to provide cartridge boxes, and tin cannisters for cartridges, is given because of the almost total want of them in the public Stores, and the impossibility of making a number in any degree equal to the demands of the army, in the public manufactories, where the workmen are few, and it is impossible to increase them: agreeable to the direction of Congress, the board give the following description of the tin cannisters.

They are to be Six inches and a half deep, or long; three inches and three quarters of an inch broad, (this breadth receiving the cartridges lengthways, as they lie in a horizontal position) and two inches and seven eights of an inch thick; (this thickness admitting four cartridges to lay Side by Side) a box of these dimensions, in the clear, will contain thirty six cartridges with ounce balls. A wire is to be fixed in all the edges at the top, and then each side turned down, (outwards) a full half inch and Soldered; the cover is to be a full half inch deep, so that when fixed on the cannister the edges shall come close down to the ledge formed by the inclosed wire. This cover at one end turns on a hinge an inch and a quarter long, the wire (fixed as above mentioned) being laid naked, that space for the purpose; and a piece of tin is run underneath this wire, doubled together, and soldered on the inside of one end of the cover. The Soldier carries a cannister by a shoulder belt, as he does a cartridge box, and for this reason the cannister has fixed to it three loops of tin, each half an inch wide, with the edges turned back, to be smooth and strong; one of them is placed underneath the middle of the bottom, and one on each of the narrowest sides, the latter at four inches distance from the bottom to their lower edges. The loops are to be bent down at each end and very well soldered, leaving a space to admit a leathern belt full one inch and a half wide, and nearly an eighth of an inch thick. The cover opens against one part of the belt, which causes it to fall down, after a cartridge is taken out, by which means the rest are secured from accidental fire. If possible, the cannisters should be japanned or painted, to preserve them from rust, and all fixed with belts.

The board are of opinion that these cannisters are preferable to

cartridge boxes, as they will infallibly secure the cartridges from rain, and their weight is so trifling as to be no burthen to the Soldier. And seeing leather is so scarce, they will be a most excellent substitute for cartridge boxes.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your most obed^{t} Servant,

HORATIO GATES, President.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr., Esquire, President of Pennsylvania.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 31st March, 1778.

Sir,

My last to your Excellency was the 21st Inst., by Messenger Wier.

Within the present Inclosure Your Excellency will receive two Acts of Congress, 1 of the 19th & 1 of the 27th Inst.

1. Recommending to the several States to raise their respective quota of men, & march them forward with all possible expedition—to provide complete sets of accoutrements, &c.

2. For recruiting Col^{o} Thomas Hartley's Regiment, to which I beg leave to refer, and remain,

With great respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient &

Most humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

His Excellency President Warton, Pennsylvania.

COUNCIL TO COL. DESHLER, 1778.

Lancaster, March 31st, 1778.

Sir,

Council being convinced of the absolute necessity to give every encouragement in their power to induce Gen. Smith to reside in the State, as well to make new arms as to repair old ones, which, thro' carelessness & unavoidable accidents, were rendered useless; they encouraged Mr. Ebenezer Corell to leave the State of New Jersey,

and follow his Business on account the publick in this State—he has very diligently attended to it and rendered Service to our cause. I find, however, that a dispute between Mr. Corell & you will probably tend to injure the publick, tho' neither of you, I am persuaded, has such intent—you can both serve the publick in the different lines in which you are engaged, and 'tis pity a trifling private dispute should prevent it. As you are acquainted in that part of the Country, & Mr. Corell is not, it will serve the common cause to afford him every assistance you can in forwarding the business in which he is engaged, especially that part of making Bayonets. From your known good character & attachment to our cause, I am induced to hope that all dispute between you will cease.

Being with respect, Sir,

Your very Hum. Servt.

Col. Deshler.

JOS. GREER, COM'R OF BUCKS TO PRES. WHARTON, 1778.

Bucks County, March 31, 1778.

Sir,

Daily Aplications have Been made to me for Liquore for the Armey, the Scearsty of this Article is very great in this part. As one Day lately I was out trying to procure some for them, I fell in with one who Informed me he had two hogseds of Spirits on hand of A Straordinary Quality, which he proposed to Bring to my house, if I would Give him a Small profit on it if Demanded. A sight of his Bill of Cost, which I found to be £4 pr Gallon in Albiney, which Bill I Desired him to prove upon oath, a Magistrate Being then handey, which he did; I Encouraged him to Bring the Spirits, promising that I would Enform the Honourable Council About it, and would Deal with him Acording to my Enstructions from them.

He has since Brought it, Stored it In my house till I Receve an Anser from you. The Liquor is of the best Quality, Also the Owner an undowted frind to our Country, he has to my Knowledge Been ofred five pounds ten pr Gallon from tavrin Keepers for It, by Small Quantideys, But would rather Let our Armey have It for five. An Answer to this would Be Satisfactory to me; also, In Case the Honourable Council thinks proper I should purchase it, I have not Money Enough to pay it.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

JOSEPH GREER, Com'r B. C.

Directed.

On Public Business,

To the Honourable Thomas Wharton, jur., Pres.

Resolutions of Assembly, 1778.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania, April 1st, 1778.

On motion,

Resolved, that it be recomended to the Supreme Executive Council, to Cause the Laws Enacted by the General Assembly to be publicly proclaimed in this Town; and that they furnish to the Sheriff of each County a Copy of the said Laws as soon as they conveniently can, and direct them also to publish them at their respective Court Houses.

Eodem Die.

The Committee appointed to Enquire into the subject of Captain Lang's memorial, made their Report, which being considered, it was thereupon

Resolved, That it be recomended to the Supreme Executive Council, to furnish Mr. Lang with such monies as they think necessary, either by Draughts on the Clothier General, or in any other manner they may think proper.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,
Clk. of Gen'l Ass'y.

April 14—rec'd this from Mr. Morris.

Wm. Hart to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Bucks County, Plumstead township, April 2, 1778.

Sir,

I would acquaint you that I have made a beginning of purchasing horses, and have purchased five, & I find they will be very high, not less than three hundred Dollars price, upon an Everage for horses that will suit that purpose (well). I likewise would Inform you, that Cash would answer much better than Certificates if it can be had, And as to Keeping, I Can Scarce Get a horse Kept at any Rate. I have now Concluded to purchase oats and hay by your approbation, and hire a hand to attend the horses, as I think it will Come lower then putting them out at Different places: it is more than probable the hay will have to be pressed where it can be best Spared, or Draw from the purchaser of forage of the County. I would be Glad of an answer as soon as possible, and some Cash.

From your most obedient and
Humble Servant,
WILLIAM HART.

Directed,

On Publick Service—
To the Honourable Thomas Wharton, junr., President.
℔ Favour of the Revd Mr. Annan.

Council to Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 2nd, 1778.

Sir,

I am favored with yours of the 27th March,* the contents of which I communicated to Council. They are of opinion with you that a greater number of officers should be employed on the recruiting service, and those such as can be depended upon, not only for their sobriety, but industry & expertness, in that necessary business. And I am fully of opinion that there should constantly remain in each county, officers properly qualified to recruit, in order that the Battalion should be kept compleat, as well as to apprehend deserters.

I am a good deal astonished to find that an officer could be five weeks in Chester County, and not have it in his power to recruit one man. I doubt he has not been very attentive to that part of his duty. The accounts that Council receives from most of the Counties are, upon the whole, favorable, and I am in hopes several hundred Men will, in the course of a few weeks, Joyn the Army. If they do not, I know of no other plan to supply our Quota of Troops for our common defence. If money is an inducement for Men to enlist in our Regiments, this State has given generously, and the officers, I think, have sufficient encouragement to do their duty.

It affords me great pleasure to hear that the Troops of this State are at least as Healthy as those of any other, and that their reputation is equal to any is well known—that you will continue your exertions to help them so I have no doubt; and it gives me no small pain to find that those brave Men are not provided with such necessaries as they have a right to expect, which would encourage them to persevere in doing their duty. Council are doing all they can to provide cloathing for them, but I fear their good intention will not be crowned with the success they wish. Mr. Howell is indefatigable in getting the cloathing made up—the want of buttons delay'd them a little, but they are now going on.

I am, &c.

General Wayne.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania. Tuesday, March 31st, 1778. On considering the Petition.

* See page 387.

Thomas Savadge to Sup. Exec. Council, 1778.

Pennsylvania Salt Works, April 4th, 1778.

S^r^,

This morning I rec^d^ advice of the enemy from N. York, haveing landed a party of men, about one hundred and fifty, at the Union Salt Works, at Squan, and destroyed them by fire, together with many others; expected them here this morning, but am just informed y^e^ are returned to the Hook, but intend these works a vissit very soon. I thought it my duty to inform your Hon., by express, that if it should be thought necessary to send any troops to protect the Works, it might be done immediately.

The Militia under Col'l Furman were here to day. What could be got together then, which were but few, it being difficult to get them together here—they are returned this afternoon. I have but few men at work, and them going to leave me on the above ac^nt^—have heard nothing of Mr. Davidson since he left this, about two months ago, in order to furnish the necessaries to carry on the works—am without cash to pay my people or purchase provisions, of which I have no other kind then bread and pork—am not able to make any salt for want of the hands—wrote for tropes. Your Hon^r^ will take the matter into consideration, and order the necessaries needfull.

I remain, in haste,
with all due respect,
yo^r^ Hon^rs^ most obed^t^ serv^t^,
THOMAS SAVADGE.

N. B. To the mem^dm^ given Mr. Davidson of things wanting for the Works, add 2 Casks of Nails, 1 at 12*d*., & 1 at 20*d*.

Directed,

To The Hon^ble^ Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Hon^ble^ the Council of State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster. ℔ Express.

President Wharton to General Lacey, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 4th, 1778.

Sir,

The within is copy of my letter of the 27th March, which will serve in a good measure to answer yours of the 26th.

Besides the classes mentioned in the within letter, to be ordered out, I have written to the Lieutenant of Bucks County to call out

one class of the Militia, so that I hope that the whole may produce, will be sufficient to answer a good purpose.

I am with respect sir,
your very humble servant,
THO'S WHARTON, Jr., P^t.

General Lacey.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,
4th April, 1778.

Resolved,

That General Washington be impowered, if he shall deem it necessary, to call on the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, for 5,000 of their militia, in such proportions from the respective states as he shall think proper—to remain in service for such time as General Washington shall recommend. The said militia to be armed & accoutred by the respective states to which they belong—to whom it is earnestly recommended to use every exertion in complying with the general's request.

(Copy.)

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Jacob Morgan Jr., to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Lancaster, April 4th, 1778.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq^r.

Sir,

I am offered the office of quarter master for the County of Berks, being conscious I can render my country more service in that office than in the Executive Council, I therefore beg leave to resign my seat in said Council.

I am, with great respect,
Your Excellencys
most obed^t Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, jr.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Thos. Savadge to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Toms River, April 6, 1778.

Sir,

This will be handed you by Capt. James Sutter, together with what I wrote yesterday, who can inform you in a more particular manner respecting the works, and this neighbourhood in general, then what I have wrote. We have learnt this morning that the enemy after leaving Squan, went to Shark river, and destroyed some works there, but have not been able to collect the particulars. If Councils should think it necessary to send any troops for the protection of the works, I apprehend it should be done immediately, as in all likelyhood they will make some attempt to destroy them in a few days, and Capt. James Sutter being out of employ, would recommend him to the Command of the troops stationed here, he being well acquainted with the nature of the service necessary here, and with the neighbourhood in respect to the militia, which might be attended with some inconvenience was an officer to come an entire stranger here, and having heard nothing to his disadvantage whilst he had honour to serve his country, take the liberty too of recommending him, haveing done his duty here as becoming an officer in his station.*

I am, with all due respect,

S^{r}, your Hon^{rs} most

Humble & Obedient Servant,

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

The Hon^{ble} Tho^{s} Wharton, Esq^{r}., President, of the Hon^{ble} Council of State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

℔ Cap^{t} James Sutter's Express.

T. Matlack to John Mackay, 1778.

Lancaster, April 6, 1778.

Sir,

The great length of time since you have attended in Council has induced the Council to enquire whether you have declined a further attendance on Publick business or not. This enquiry is become a duty which they can no longer delay, as it is with some difficulty that a Council can be kept together, to do business at all times, without some danger of a deficiency of members, and the service is ren-

* See page 398.

dered very hard to those who give a due attendance, by the long absence of others, so as to prevent the attending members even from occasionally visiting their families. You will please to write to the board your sentiments on this head without further delay, as a season of pressing and important business is at hand.

I have the honour to be,
with great respect,
Your very h'mble servant,
T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,

To h'nble John Mackay, Esq^r.

Council to Genl. Washington, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 6, 1778.

Sir,

I have the Honor of receiving your Letter of yesterday's date, enclosing one from M^rs Mary Pemberton to you. I am to inform your Excellency that Council cheerfully comply with the request of that Lady, being desirous that the situation of the gentlemen in confinement should be made as agreeable as may be consistent with the safety of the state, you will please, therefore, to receive enclosed a Passport for one or two waggons, and such necessarys as those gentlemen may realy need. It is proper to acquaint your Excellency that the House of General Assembly have Passed a Law that will apply to these cases of the Prisoners, and that Council has obtained a resolve from the Honorable Congress to deliver them to the State of Pennsylvania, and a person will be sent in a day or two to Winchester to escort them to this State, when they will have an opportunity to take a decided part, and this the act absolutely requires of them. As your Excellency purposes to forward the Passport, I beg you will take the trouble to mention this circumstance, as it may in some measure govern M^rs Pemberton & the other Ladies in the quantity & kind of supplies intended to be sent out.*

Indorsed,

To his Excellency Gen^l Washington.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 457, 458, 460, 461, 462, 468, 472, 473, 474.

Brig. Gen. Lacey to President Wharton, 1778.

Doyles Town, April 8th, 1778.

Sir,

I have sent by Cap^{t} Cable one hogshead of furniture which was brought from M^{r} Emlins; several other Boxes & Hogsheads is now at this place, which I shall forward to you by the first opportunity. My little party is at the Billet. I am here trying some Philad^{a} Market Men by a court Martial, & I hope soon to give you an account of their receiving the just Merrits of their malignant crimes.

Inclosed is a return of the Militia under my command. News has this moment arrived from below, that a large part of the Enemy came last night to Smithfield, and made Prisoners a small party of Continental Troops, under the command of Cap^{t} Henderson; it is also said they are moving up towards the Buck; I have ordered some of the Horse down to learn the certainty of this news. I am in haste, and must conclude.

Your most obed^{t}
Hble. Serv^{t},
JOHN LACEY, jr., B. G.

Directed,

His Exc'y Thomas Wharton, Jun^{r}, Esq^{r}, Lancaster.

Board of War to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

By order of Congress we enclose to you our Direction to Joseph Holmes,* Esq^{r} Dep^{y} Commiss'y of Prisoners at Winchester, to deliver over to the President and Council of Pennsylvania, their Order, all Prisoners under his Care belonging to that State.

The Order of Congress, which we also enclose, is dated March 16,† 1778, and would have been immediately attended to had not the Board expected an Application from the President and Council for the Delivering of the Prisoners to some Person authorized to receive them.

I am, Sir,
your most obed^{t}
Humble Serv^{t},
HORATIO GATES.
President.

York Town, 8 April, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency, The President, and The Honorable, The Council of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 462. † See p. 364, 367.

Jona. B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, April 8th, 1778.

Sir,

Understanding from Colo Cox that the purchase of horses for the army in your state was impeded for want of money, I was led to inquire into the circumstances, as warrants had issued in your favour for 80,000 dollars so long ago as 30th of March. Accordingly I found in the Treasury office, one warrant on your Loan Office for 50,000 dollars, which is inclosed, & one other on Mr Hillegas for 30,000 da. Respecting the latter, it will not answer any purpose to rely on it *'till we can get Mr. Rittenhouse* to finish what he has in hand.* Perhaps a greater service cannot be rendered the public than that of urging his assiduity.

With very great respect,
I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's most ob. h. Servt,
JONa B. SMITH.

If the 30,000 da should be indispensably necessary, any directions from your Excellency shall be attended to.

Directed,

On public service

To His Excellency, The President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Council to President of Congress, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 9, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 31 March, enclosing the resolves of the Honorable Congress—to which Council, so far as they concern them, will pay due attention.

I have the honor to remain,
with great respect, sr,
Your obedient servant.

Indorsed,

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esqr, President of Congress.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 449.

President Wharton to Colonel Richard Butler, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 9th, 1778.

Sir,

I received your letter of the 26th March,* to which I should have replyed before, but have been waiting to see Mr Mease, who has been at York Town several days and is not yet returned. He informed Council sometime since that a large number of shirts had been sent to camp, and at the same time gave them to understand that he believed there would be no want of that article.

I am very unhappy at the accounts I receive from you and other officers of this state, of the situation of our troops from the want of proper cloathing. Your humanity as well as close attention to the wants of so brave a sett of men as I believe the Pennsylvania troops to be, demands the thanks of Council. I wish it was in my power to remove every, the least cause of complaint, and have them well supplyed with every article that would make the life of a soldier as comfortable as possible. Council has taken, and will continue to take every step that they believe will have a tendency to effect that purpose, as well by reminding Mr Mease of the complaints of the army, as in procuring every necessary for them which can be spared in this state.

I am with respect, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

THOMAS WHARTON.

Council to Francis Bailey and Captain Lang, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 10th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The enclosed resolves of the Council will shew that you are appointed and authorized to conduct the Prisoners sent from this state to Virginia, from Winchester, the place of their present confinement, to this Borough, and on your arrival here acquaint this Council thereof.

Inclosed is an order of the Board of War to Joseph Holmes, Esqr,† to deliver over those Gentlemen to the Order of this Council, and

* See page 386.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 462.

endorsed thereon an order of the Council for the delivery being made to you.

It is reported that several of those Gentlemen are in a low state of health and unfit to travel; if you find this to be the case, they must be left where they are for the present. Those of them who are in health you are to bring with you, treating them on the road with that polite attention and care which is due from men who act upon the purest motives to Gentlemen whose station in life entitles them to respect, however they may differ in political sentiments from those in whose power they are. You will please to give them every aid in your power by procuring the necessary means of travelling in waggons or otherwise, with such baggage as may be convenient for them on the road.

Perhaps it may be convenient to divide these Gentlemen into two companies for their better accomodation on the road; in this respect you may consult the inclination and choice of the Gentlemen themselves.

Your own prudence and good sense will direct you in such incidents as may turn up, in which the Council have no doubt but that your Conduct will justify their confidence in you.

Gen. Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 10th April, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor of yours of the 6th, inclosing a passport for the Waggons with Stores for the prisoners at Winchester, which I immediately forwarded to Mrs. Pemberton.*

I beg leave to introduce Major General Greene to you, who is lately appointed Qr Mr General. Upon looking over the late law of this State for regulating the manner of providing Waggons for the Service, he has found out some parts which he conceives might be amended so as more fully to answer the valuable purposes intended. He will lay the wished amendments before you and the Council for your consideration, and if you think with him that the Service will be benefitted by them, I have no doubt but you will recommend them to the Assembly at the opening of the next Session.

There is a Grievance complained of by many persons, inhabitants of this State, who attend the Army in continental employ as Qr Masters, Waggon Masters, Teamsters, &c. They are called upon to do duty in the Militia, and if they do not appear are fined to the amount of their substitute money. This they conceive to be very

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. pages 457, 458.

hard upon them, as they are in the service of the States, and ought to be as much exempted as Officers or Soldiers.

General Greene will represent this matter fully to you, and point out an equitable mode of redress. He is interested in the matter, as the persons who complain generally belong to his department.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obt Servt,

G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Abraham Levan to President Wharton, 1778.

Allen Township, Northampton County, April 10th, 1778.

Honord Sir,

Your Esteemed favour of March 10th, 1778, came safe to hand. The Injunctions you'r pleased to lay upon me respecting the purchase of 25 Horses for the service, as the quota for this County, I chearfully comply'd with; and, tho' it's a difficult task, yet I have good hopes that with close application and perseverence I can accomplish it. However, Sir, Rest assured no care nor Industry of mine shall be wanting. I have secured 14, and have some others under my Eye. They are of such age & make that I flatter myself will give general satisfaction, and answer the salutary purposes they are intended for.

I am, honor'd sr,

with all possible respect & Defference,

Your most obedt humo servt,

ABRAHAM LEVAN.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Junr, Prest, Lancaster.

Tench Tilghman to Sec'y Matlack, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 10th April, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am favd with yours of the 6th inclosing Mr. James Allen's letter to the Council, I shall agreeable to your request give you a full account of the whole transaction as far as it came within my knowledge.

Some little time previous to the 27th Decemr, Mr. Allen wrote me a letter from Northampton, and desired I would obtain a pass from General Washington for Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Allen and her servants to go into Philada as she (Mrs. Allen) was near lying in, and could not obtain the necessary nurses and attendants for a woman in her situation. This the General refused, but said he would allow nurses &c., to come from Philada. In a few days after Mr. Allen came down himself, and represented to the General, that his wife would probably lose her life if she had not better assistance in her labour than could be procured at Northampton. Humanity prevented him from refusing a request of this nature, and he agreed to allow it. This being obtained, Mr. Allen hinted a desire of going into Philada himself, upon this, the General desired me to be clear and explicit with Mr. Allen. He desired me to tell him, that he had no objection to his going in but that he would not have any thing to do with his coming out again, and the passport was worded as you have seen, Mr. Allen did not go in at that time with his wife, and Mrs. Lawrence, but some weeks afterwards. I beg leave to mention what passed between Mr. Allen and myself, altho' I had ever differed with him in political sentiments, yet from my family connections with him, I thought it my duty to give him my advice as a Friend. I told him he had hitherto acted a part that had been rather unexceptionable, and that if he inclined to go into Philada he had better apply to the Governor and Council, state his Reasons to them, and give any required security for his conduct while there. That it was more than probable from the lenity which they had shewed many individuals that his request would be granted, but that if he went in without this previous caution, he might depend it would be construed into taking a decisive part with the Enemy and his return prevented. He said he would think of it and act accordingly, we parted and I have not seen him since.

My father is at Chester Town, Maryland, to which place there is a post goes from Lancaster. I shall esteem your enclosing a Copy of the law to him, as a favr conferred upon him and myself, would it not be well to insert it in the papers which find their way into Philada where some of the Gentlemen, concerned in its operation reside.

I am with Respect, Dear Sir,

yr most obt Servt,

TENCH TILGHMAN.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Brig. Gen. Anth'y Wayne to President Wharton, 1778.

Mount Joy, Ap[l] 10th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to your desire, I have order'd up an additional number of Recruiting officers, who are well Recommended for their Industry and Sobriety, and who I wish were tolerated to Enlist in any Quarter where it most probable they may meet with success—as confining them to particular Counties, will rather retard than expedite or facilitate the Recruiting Service. I Communicated your Idea to his Excellency, of Constantly employing some officers in that Business, in order to keep the Regiments & Corps Compleate, which meet his warmest approbation; and he requests, threw me that your Excellency would adopt so Salutary a measure, as its of the first consequence to have Veterans, in place of raw raised troops, which will always be the case if the Recruiting business is put off till the spring of the year; and then the Time is so short that we can't hope, either to Compleate or Manoevoure our Corps before they take the field. I wish your Excellency to order the Recruits to be Clothed, & appointed before they leave Lancaster, as they can't be supplyed here, the Sixteen additional Regiments, and the Carolina troops, being ordered to be supplyed, previous to any others so that we have little prospect of receiving any benefit from the Clothier General's Store in this Quarter, and altho tolerable with Regard to shoes, stockings, & Hatts, we are but wretchedly provided in other Respects, particularly as to shirts; I do assure your Excellency that their are near one third of my men that have no kind of Shirt under Heaven, and scarcely a man in the Division with more than one, nor have I been able to draw any during this whole winter, for God's sake Endeavour to do some thing for us, the season is now arrived that Requires every attention to keep the Troops healthy, and nothing will be more Conducive to it than clean linnen, in this article, we are in a worse Condition than any troops on the ground, nay worse than Falstaffs Recruits, they had a shirt and a half to a Company. You'l pardon me for dweling so long on this subject, but upon my soul, I cannot help it, my feelings as a man are so much hurt by the complainings and misery of the Poor fellows, who have no shirts at all, that I can have no peace of mind, until they are provided.

A Quantity of Superfine Cloth, and about 12 or 1500 yards of Linnens & Chks were purchased by Col. Miller and left in the hands of Mr. Jacob Eichelberger at York, for the use of our Troops; will you be kind enough to order Mr. Howell to send for it, least other Troops should receive the benefit of that, which we are in so much in want off.

A woman who has been in Philad[a] for three or four days, and this moment Returned, says that the general Report there is that in the

Course of two weeks, the Enemy intend to take the Field—but at the Quarters of some principal officers, they have frequently been overheard talking in a Desponding stile, and that they can't move until they Receive a Reinforcement, with severe sarcasm against their General, who they wish to be recalled, and who I hope will not, untill we have an opportunity to Burgoyne him, but this will depend upon the Exertion of the states, at present he outnumbers us, and by the best acco^ts New England is so absorbed in Accumulating wealth, that they have become totally Insensable to our sufferings and Danger, and sunk into a torpid supineness, from which its difficult to rouse them.

I am your Excellencies

most Obd^t and very

Hum. Servant

By order of General Wayne.

BEN. FISHBOURNE, A. D. C.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellency Governor Thomas Wharton, Jun'r Esq., Lancaster

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GEN. WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 11th April, 1778.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to enclose you a Resolve of Congress of the 4^th^ instant empowering me to call for 5000 Militia from the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. Much as the army stands in need of Reinforcements, I would not wish to call upon the States for their militia in great numbers before there is an absolute necessity. I shall therefore only make a demand at present from Pennsylvania of one thousand effective Rank and File including those at present in service under the command of General Lacey. I inclose you copy of his Return of the 6th instant for your Government, I wish this Body of one thousand to be sent into the field as expeditiously and for as long a time as possible. If they cannot be ordered out for a longer time than the tour prescribed by law, I hope care will be taken to replace them regularly as their Services expire.

I have tho honour to be

with great Respect Sir,

y^r^ most ob^t^ Serv^t^,

G^o^ WASHINGTON.

N. B. Col. Gibson informs me that if the Militia would mount

the Guards at Lancaster, he could send forward a considerable number of continental Troops, Be pleased to apply to him and know what number will be necessary, which may be considered as part of the 1000 above demanded.

Directed,

On publick Service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

(Copy) Gen. Washington to Brig. Gen. Lacey, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, April 11th, 1778.

Sir,

I received yours of yesterday inclosing the proceedings of a Court Martial against sundry Inhabitants for supplying the Enemy with provisions, and a return of your Brigade, when you have gone through the tryals of the whole, I would recommend it to you to send such as you think dangerous, and who would join the Enemy if released, to the president, with a desire to confine them or put them to labour for five or six Months, which will be the active part of the campaign. Those whose general character has been good, I would have released with an assurance of being hanged if they are taken in such practices again, and perhaps it would be well to remit the corporal punishment of all especially if they are people who have any reputable friends in the Country, you will observe that the Resolve of Congress for trying Inhabitants by law martial expired yesterday, and therefore it will be needless to apprehend any more; if they are found going into Philad^{a} with Provisions you may take that and their Horses from them.

I am Sir,
your most
obedt. Servt.
G^{o} WASHINGTON.

(Copy).

Directed,

Brig'r Gen. Lacey.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Sec'y Matlack, 1778.

Easton Apr. 11th, 1778.

Sir,

When the Invalid Regt was raised the intention thereof was to form a kind of military school as well to procure a retreat to persons suffering in the service, in consequence of which the officers were ordered to recruit, & I raised a few men 'till the substitute act destroyed all recruiting in this State, raising men therein for other corps, & which may not be reckoned in its quota, is doing an injury thereto which I should be sorry to do in any shape, I must therefore beg you will apply to his Excellency & the Hon^{ble} Council, that I may be informed of the new regulations for recruiting made by the Assembly, & enabled to carry them into execution, the men so raised to be sent to the army to help filling up the regiments belonging to this state.

I am Sir,
your most obedt Servt.
LEWIS NICOLA, Col. T. M.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}, Secretary to the Hon^{ble} Executive Council at Lancaster.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Mount Joy, Ap^{l} 12th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Capt. Williams being now Sent on the Recruiting Service, has also Gen'l Waynes Permission and *Orders* to take up as many Deserters from this State as he possably can, he informing the Gen'l that he knew of many, which had deserted from his Company last year.

He will call on you for your Instructions in Regard to the Recruiting Service, and I make no doubt but his proceedings or Indefaticability will meet with your approbation—its the Gen'l wish that he may not be Confind to any particular place—he supplies the place of Lieut. Henderson, who was some time ago sent on that Service with Capt. Scull, and is now returned.

I am Y^{r} Excellency's most
Obd^{t} Humbl. Servant.
By order of Gen'l Wayne.
BEN. FISHBOURNE, A. D. C.

Directed.

His Excellency Governor Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}., Lancaster.
Favour'd by Capt. Williams.

Col. Thos. Craig to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Valley Forge, April 12th, 1778.

Sir,

Though we were much distressed for want of Cloathing, when supplied from the Continental Store, we still rested satisfied, knowing that we always got a proportionable part, and that it was not in the Power of the States to procure a Sufficiency for the Army—But since each State has undertook to cloathe its own Troops, I have found, in taking a View of the Pennsylvania Line, that some Regiments are well cloathed, and in fact have more than they at present want, while others, whom I will presume to say are as deserving as any, have not sufficient to cover their Nakedness.

This, Sir, must certainly excite a Jealousy, and indeed I am sorry to say, that there must be partiallity in it. The present deplorable Situation of my Regiment Obliges me to trouble you, therefore must beg you will order me down a small supply. I refer you to Capt. Thomas Moore for the returns, They are moderate, and only meant to cover the men we have doing Duty in Camp.

The two officers who were sent to recruit for my Regiment are returned with four recruits, and say that it is not in their Power to get men. I have pointed out a way to Capt. Moore, which he will communicate to you. I think it will be of Service, & hope it may meet with your approbation, if not, should be glad to have the speediest Steps taken you may think proper.

I have the Honor to be,
with much Esteem & respect,
Yr Honor's most Obt hub. Servt.

THOS. CRAIG.

Directed

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of yo Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Maj. Gen. John Armstrong to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, 13th April, 1778.

Sir,

Some weeks ago I had the pleasure of writing yr Excel. a few lines from York Town, on the subject of a Lead mine,* but have not heard whether my letter was delivered. Since that time, have been inform'd that the mine is comprehended by lines ran for the

* See page 293.

Proprietaries, in laying out part of their Tenths as early, if I remember right, as the year —61.

The Drafting of our Militia, in order to fill up the regular Regiments of the State, however laudable that measure may be, it is liable to the additional obstruction arising from the absence of a part of that Body which is to be drafted; I mean the Militia necessarily in the field, as those at home may derive a plea from the absence of their fellows—to remove this embarrassment, (shou'd it prove such) or rather thus early, to hint to Council to be prepared with such expedient as may best answer that peculiar circumstance, is the only design of this paragraph—perhaps a Lieut. or Sub Lieut., to attend at Camp from such of the Countys as may have sent out their Classes, may be as natural a method as any other.

Give me leave to advise you, that some short time ago I received a letter from a certain Mr. James Maxwell, of Canigochege, who, in consequence as I conceive of a public order, or at least recommendation of Council, that Volunteers, as well as certain Classes under the Law, shou'd on that particular occasion repair to Camp & joine General Washington, &c. Complaining that altho' he, as Captain, carried out a Company of Volunteers, joined Gen'l Potter, & remain'd doing duty with him the usual term; he & his men are, notwithstanding, fined by the State officers in that part of the Country, and have no credit given them for that tour of duty, because not perform'd in the common mode prescribed by Law—'tis probable some dependance might also have been laid on my private letter at that time, sent abroad under the privity of Council. If Capt[n] Maxwell & his Volunteers, about the time of that Order, served the two months, obeying the Commands of Gen'l Potter, as I have not any doubt they did, I hope the Supreme Council will be of the opinion that the Lieut. has gone too far, and will as early as convenient prohibit the Levying of these fines. I shall in the mean time write to Maxwell, in order to make them easy until the sense of Council is known. I immagin it is alleged that Maxwell, & perhaps his Volunteers, are not so well attached as they ought to be to our present frame of Government—that argument, if even true, is in my opinion on the present occasion totally without force, and such policy as cannot be justified, but am persuaded I need not add.

I am uneasy to learn whether Congress—the Commander in Chief, or any other mode be yet taken up for calling together, for a short time, the force of the neighbouring States, for purposes too obvious to require any mention being made of them; delays are always dangerous, but on great occasions may prove fatal.

General Potter has lately been here, and is to repair to Camp about the latter end of this month—he will take Lancaster in his way.

It is not to be supposed, that under the sensible falling off of every faculty of body and mind, & decline of the common sences,

I can possibly wish for any active or laborious Charge thro' the ensuing Campaign, and equally inadmissable, the Idea of being far distant whilst the Scene of action is in Pennsylvania, or totally inactive under the present aspect of —78; And intend, therefore, God willing, to be at Camp about the latter end of May, there to act as necessity or expedience may point out.

I am, dear Sir, with great respect,

Your Excellencys most humble Servt.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

I have wrote Gen'l Leacy against the unwarrantable practice of allowing the Militia to claim & distribute as Plunder or free Booty, the Horses, Teams, &c., they may seize carrying in provisions to the Enemy. I have heard such a report, but am not certain of the truth of it. If so, it is infallibly wrong.

J. A.

Directed,

On Public Service—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favour'd by Coll. Smith.

Brig. Gen. Lacey to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Doyles Town, April 13th, 1778.

Sir,

Inclosed is a list of some prisoners, their crimes and the judgment of the Court, which is approved of in part by His Excellency General Washington, &c., in a letter to me, dated April the 11th, 1778, a coppy of which I also inclose in this letter. The Prisoners I send you are Notorious offenders, and have made a grate practice of going to market, as well as being guilty of other traitourous acts. I send them to you to do with them as you and Council may direct, but hope they may be kept close to some Labourious Business, during the Campaign, for you may rely on their going directly to the Enemy if they have their Liberty.

None of the Classes you have ordered into the field has yet arived, the times of those with me expire the twenty third of this month, which is just at hand—my party lays near the Billit.

One of my Scouting party's fell in with a party of the Enemy

some days since, near Doctor Benuils, on the York Road, by whom five of the Militia were Killed; the greatest part of them, after they were made prisoners, were inhumanly Butchered; two others were wounded, one of which they took with them, the other they left for dead, but after they were gone he made shift to git to one of the Neighbouring Houses, from whence he was brought up to this place, and is like to recover tho badly wounded.

I remain with respect,
Your Excellency's most
obedient humble Servant,
JOHN LACEY, Jun^r., B. G.

Directed,

On Public Service—
His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun^r., Esq^r., Lancaster.

FRED: WISE TO ——— ———, 1778.

Philad^a C'y, Douglass, April 13th, 1778.

Sir,

I ought to give you intelligence of my Proceedings about Buying them Horses, before now, But I Could not get an Oppertunity before this, therefore I hope you'l Excuse me. I hereby Let you know that such Horses are Very Scarce in our County, but I have Try'd my best Endeavour to get them, and I got 9, which I think will answer the Purpose very well; but your Order says not to Buy any under 5 Years old, which is no Possibility for me to get them in our County. And I am upon Opinion a Horse of 4 Years Old, if he is Try'd, is as good for any Hardship as a Horse of 6 and 7 Years, therefore, Please to Let me know in Short whether I shall Buy any of 4 Years Old or not. And the Horses are very Dear, that I Can't get them under £100, 120 and 130 Pounds a Horse. No more at present, but wishing this may find you in health as I am at present,

I am your Very
Humble Ser^t.
FREDERICK WISE.

Council to General Washington, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 13th, 1778.

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 10 & 11 Inst,* The first by Major General Green, Q. M. General. This Gentleman communicated to Council his sentiments respecting the Waggon Law, and left with them some hints for their consideration. The Law perhaps may be altered for the better, tho' it is not so deficient as it appears at the first View;—it was made to provide for the Army in a general way, and if the Deputy Quarter Master had made timely application for Waggons, there would have been but little cause for complaint; notwithstanding there is no provission in the Law for cases of real emergency, it is nevertheless the opinion of Council that there may be instances which will fully justify the Quarter Master General, his deputies & the officers commanding detachments in impressing Waggons. If the Law had given authority to the military to impress, there would have been some reason to fear that very little attention would have been paid to the regular mode of calling upon the Farmers, whereby the burthen might possibly be very unequal. As it now stands the necessity of the case must justify the measure. Respecting the other grievance which your Excellency hints at, that of Waggoners, Quarter Masters, Teamsters, &c., great difficulty arises, either in exempting them from or obliging them to pay the substitution money. It is alleged that many of them have enterd into the Waggon service & the Quarter Masters Line for a short time merely to evade the Law, in expectation that by this means they may neither serve their term of duty nor pay the Fine. If a regular enlistment was made to serve for a year, or perhaps a shorter time, upon producing a certificate to the Lieutenant of the County, I think he would exempt him from the fines, and this has really been the case in many instances, and it is the opinion of Council that such exemption is justifiable; and therefore I propose to instruct the Lieutenants on this head.

Your Letter of the 11th enclosed a resolve of Congress empowering you to call upon the States of Pennsylvania, Mary[d], & Virginia, for 5000 Militia, in consequence of which you request from this State 1000 effective men.

I wish there was no occasion to call upon the militia at this time, as they are about to prepare the ground for summer Crops; & there are other reasons that enduces me to wish very sincerely that we had no occasion for their services in the Field. I am sure your Excellency would not demand them if they could be dispensed with;

* See page 409, 410.

Council apprehending there was a necessity to keep up near that number under Gen. Lacey, gave orders some time since to the Lieutenants of the Counties of Cumberland, York, Northampton, Bucks, & Phila^{a}, for as many as they thought would be sufficient, I find however they have not turned out to my wishes. I will give such further orders as I hope will answer your Excellencys expectations, reserving as many here for guard as the number of Continental Troops now employed on this business.

It is proper however to inform you that at the request of Congress I ordered 500 of the Militia to guard the stores, 200 at Easton, 100 at Bethlehem, & 200 at Reading.

I have the

Council to Thomas Savadge, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 13, 1778.

Sir,

Your letters of the 4th & 6th instant* have been read in Council.

As to Guards being sent to defend the Salt works under your care, there does not appear to be any propriety in it from many considerations.

These works have been very long in hand, and have hitherto been altogether fruitless. This greatly discourages Council from pursuing the business any further until they are satisfied that there is a reasonable prospect of something effectual being done, and they are of opinion that they cannot justify to the publick the advancing of any more money until they are satisfied of the propriety of the disposal of that already issued for this purpose. You are therefore directed to lay your accounts before the Council as soon as may be. †

Directed,

To Mr. Thomas Savadge.

* See page 398, 400.

† See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 463.

Council to Commissioners for Provisions, 1778.

Circular.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 14, 1778.

Gentlemen.,

Colonel Clement Biddle being appointed Forage Master General, it is proper that his advice and directions be respected in the purchase and disposal of forage. He will furnish you with money for this purpose from time to time as it shall become necessary.

I am sir,
your very Hum. servt.

Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1778.

Reading, April 15th, 1778.

Sir,

I Receiv'd Your Excellencys orders of the 24th March Last: Agreeable thereunto I have Calld upon the 1st Class, of which One Hundred and Fifty one Rank and File have entred, which Falls Short of the Number Demanded; I therefore called upon the Second Class of one of the Battalions, which I expect will make up the Number demanded.

I also Received your orders of the 2d of this Instant by the Secretary, to make exact Lists, Distinguishing Battalions & Companies, of all the Officers and soldiers within this State, which shall be Delivered in on or before the First Day of May next. Agreeable thereunto I have Sent orders to all the Commanding officers of each Company in the several Battalions in the County to make Returns of all the Male white Inhabitants, &c., in their several Districts by the 24th of this Instant, and am in hopes to make Returns agreeable to your Excellencies orders.

I am with great regard,
your Excellencies most Obedient
Humble Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council, in Lancaster.

GENL. ANTHY. WAYNE TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Mount Joy, 16th April, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Donaldson, of York, who will deliver you this, has been kind enough to offer his services in procuring shirts for our troops; he thinks that he Could supply us with three or four Hundred ℔ week, and that he has Linen now on hand sufficient to make Six Hundred, and that he can procure a large Quantity if properly Impowered and supplied with cash.

The necessitous situation of our Troops, for want of shirts, will Justify any measure, and requires every exertion to procure an immediate supply.

I therefore wish your Excellency to give Mr. Donaldson powers for that purpose. We shall certainly want in the whole 9,000 shirts and 9,000 pair of Overalls.

I herewith transmit you the Returns of the two Brigades of Pens[a] Troops, under my command; the sick now in Camp, Contained in my Returns, have been laid up for want of clothing, except in a few Instances; there is scarcely one of them that has a *shirt*. I shall order a general Return of the whole Penns[a] Line to make out, which I shall transmit next Week.

Interim I am,

With every esteem,

Your Excellencies most ob[t]

And very Hum. S[t],

ANTY. WAYNE.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., Lancaster.

℔ Mr. Donaldson.

GENL. ANTHY. WAYNE TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Camp, Mount Joy, April 16th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Capt. Irwin & Lieut. Vanlear, belonging to the Ninth Penns[a] Regiment, being now sent on the Recruiting service, they will waite on you for your Instructions; as these Gentlemen do not belong to General Wayne's Division, but to Lord Sterling's, you will please to

note the same, they are of the Line of Penns^{a}, and will come under your Notice in the same manner as the former.

Col. Butler, to whom these Gentlemen belong, also requests Informing you that he has other officers from his Regiment on the same service. If they should want Cash for that purpose you will supply them. The Colonel writes, directing them to call on you for your orders.

I am your Excellencies
Most obedient,
Hu'ble Servant,
For the Genl. & Self.

By order of Genl. Wayne.
BEN. FISHBOURNE, A. D. C.

Directed.

On Public Service.

To His Excellency, Governour Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, Lancaster.

Gl. Wayne.

Jonathan B. Smith to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, April 16, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour of receiving yours. In consequence of your desire expressed that a warrant for the remaining 30,000 dollars should be passed in your favor on the Loan office of this state, I have procured a warrant for 20,000 dollars, which is inclosed. That for 30,000 on the Treasurer yet lies here, & may perhaps be paid in 10 days or a fortnight; but it depends on circumstances which cannot be ascertained. These three warrants make 100,000 dollars *for the purchase of horses*, as the warrant specifies.

Your Excellency will excuse my hinting the necessity of forwarding the accounts of the prisoners taken from the enemy. By a resolution of Congress, of February last, those accounts were to be rendered before 15 April, or the State omitting were to suffer any losses consequent on the event.

I believe orders will issue to suspend any further purchases of flour. Large quantities are procured, we are told, in Maryland.

If so a return of the proceedings of our Commissioners & their accounts will be called for.*

With very great respect,

I have the honor to be

Your Excellencies most ob. h^ble s^t,

JONA. B. SMITH.

Having written the above abroad I have it not in my power to fill up one or two blanks.

Directed,

On publick service.

To His Excellency, The President of the state of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Fav'd by Col. Cox.

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1778.

State Navy Board, April 16, 1778.

Sir,

We rec'd your Excellency's, by Capt. Houston, also one from General Washington, which Capt. Blewer will show you. On receipt of that letter, we applied to Governor Livingston for advice, he told us that he was very sorry the Galleys should be dismantled, but as it was out of his line he declined to give advice. We then applied to him for Power to press Waggons, he said he had not that Power; on which we presented a memorial to the Governor, praying he would lay it before the Council & Assembly, who soon after impowered the Governor to give orders to press such Waggons as we wanted. Six Galleys being then dismantled, as well as the Brig Convention, we carried off the Stores and Cannon to different Places, and put them under the care of such Inhabitants as we could trust and depend on. While we were carrying off these, an order came from General Washington, to send the men that were on board the Galleys which were sent from his Camp, many of which were sent off; on which two more Galleys were dismantled; they are now all in a proper creek ready pluged, and can be sunk in Half an Hour. Four Galleys and four armed Boats are now as low as Burlington. The shot we have buried in a good Place near the Water. For any other particulars must refer your Excellency to Capt. Blewer.

A large Quantity of Powder was sent to Pitts Town, since which

* See page 403.

we gave an order to Mr. Pearson, to remove most of it to Allen Town; at which place there is a Quantity of Duck, and other Stores, an Inventory of which Capt. Blewer has.

I am,

By order of the Board,

Your Excellency's most obedient

Hble Serv't,

WM. BRADFORD.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,

April 17th, 1778.

Resolved,

That the President and the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, be requested to order the Commissioners, by them appointed to make purchases of wheat and flour, to desist in making any further purchases of those articles, and to make returns forthwith to Mr. Wadsworth, Commissary General of Purchases, and to the Board of War, of the purchases they have made.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

D. Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, April 17th, 1778.

Sir,

The Confidence the Honorable the Representatives of our State, have placed in me, by a late resolve, together with the pressing and indispensible necessity of a speedy supply of lead for the public Service, induced me to ask leave of absence of Congress to proceed with Workmen to put their business into a proper train, and have reached this place on that errand, and having collected men and materials and sent them forward this day, purpose to follow to-morrow. My views have been greatly enlarged since I left York, on the importance of the undertaking and hazard in prosecuting it, for the publick Works here are not furnished with an ounce of lead but what is in fixed ammunition, on the other hand the prevailing oppinion of people as

I advance into the Country, of Indian depredations shortly to commence, might not only deter the Workmen I stand in need of, but affright the back settlers from their Habitation sand leave the Country exposed and naked. To give confidence to one and the other, I have drawn out of the publick Stores here, twenty five stand of arms and a quantity of Gun powder, and intended to proceed this morning, but was applied to by John Caruthers, Esqr., Lieut. of this County, and Wm. Brown, Commissary of provisions for the Militia, who advised with me on the subject of their respective Departments, and by the account they gave of the orders from your Hon^ble^ Board to them as to calling out and supplying the Militia, I find the State is guarding against the incursions of the Savages; this confirmed me in a preconceived intention of erecting a Stockade Fort, in the neighbourhood of the Mine I am about to work; if I could stir up the Inhabitants to give their labour in furnishing an Asylum for their Families in case of imminent danger, and prevent the evacuation of the Country. Mr. Caruthers, convinced of the necessity of the work for the above purposes, condescendingly offered one Company of the Militia, which he expected would consist of about 40 men, under my command, to co-operate in so salutary a Business; as it consisted with the orders of Council respecting the Station, being only a deviation of a very few miles; and that one other Company of about the same number should also join me for the greater Expedition, until the pleasure of Council was known, which he presumed might coincide with such dispositions, otherwise it might be deranged by an immediate Express, and that the pleasure of Council might be known without delay, I give this intelligence. If these measures are for the good of the publick wheel, I hope to be honored with a confirmation, and orders to the Militia to exert themselves in carrying the design into immediate execution; if otherwise, I rely on the well known candour of Council, that I shall not be suspected of any sinister design, in leaning to an offer freely made as above, from, I believe, the best motives; much less that I have presumed to interfere with the arrangements of Council, as this early notice is a full proof to the Contrary, as the whole is in their power as much as if nothing had passed betwixt the Lieut. and myself. I have only to add on this subject that your design of patroling parties of good Riflemen shall be encouraged by me. The Commissary, Mr. Brown, being destitute of money, I would have spared it out of my small stock, but that by my interferance 1200 Dollars, all he asked, was supplied by a public officer here, but further sums, will, he said, be soon necessary and he expressed much concern for the scarcity of provisions. I was advised very lately by Judge McKean, of a quantity of salted beef, in the neighbourhood of Harris's Ferry, and before I left York I applied to him by letter to advise me of the quantity and quality, with a design to purchase, as I intended to employ a much greater number of men than are already employed at the lead mine, to carry on the Business with vigour. If Council

should think proper to order a quantity of said provisions up the Juniata, for the Militia, I should be glad of being favored with what I want thro' the same Channel. I intend to build such a Fort, as, with sufficient provisions, under the smile of providence, would enable me to defend it against any number of Indians that might presume to invest it. If I am not prevented by an opportunity of serving the State eminently by a longer stay in the Wilderness, I purpose to return to my duty in Congress in about three Weeks. Will Council favor me with the exemption of a number of men, not exceeding twenty, if I cannot be supplied by the Adjutant General who has orders co-extensive with my want of smelters and Miners from Deserters from the British Army, to suffer such to come to this part of the Country contrary to a preceeding order? If Council should think such a measure of exemption for the public good, I should be glad to receive their orders on that head. I would not intrude my sentiments on Council, but am of opinion, that besides the supplying of provisions to the Militia in Bedford, it is very important that the intended Stockade should be seasonably furnished with that article; therefore if it should not be thought adviseable to improve the above hint, that the provisions already mentioned in the neighbourhood of Harris's, should be left unnoticed until I shall have an oppo'y of furnishing my own supplies from that stock, if I shall be advised by Mr. McKean it is in my offer. My landing is at Water Street in Juniata, but I could on notice receive any supply from Standing Stone.

I am most respectfully,

Sir,

Y^r^ most ob^t^ & very hum. Serv't

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P.S. In my hurry I have not time to copy this which I beg may be excused.

Directed.

On public Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, j^r^, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Carlisle, Dan'l Robordeau.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 17th April.

Sir,

I have long been convinced that one great cause of the backwardness of the people to supply us with articles in the Q^r Masters and Commissary's department, has been owing to the imprudent choice of deputies in those departments, who have not only personally abused the inhabitants, but have defrauded them of great part of their dues.

So glaring an instance, of one of these improper appointments, has lately presented itself to me, that I thought it my duty to take the deputation away from the person to prevent his doing mischief, and as he was empowered to act by Mr. Thomas Edwards, the Commissioner of Lancaster County, I thought it highly expedient to give you information of it, with the character of Patrick Maguire, the person named in the enclosed extensive Commission. He was hired to act, about twelve months ago, as Steward in my family, in which station he continued untill a few weeks past, when I was obliged to dismiss him. He is given to liquor, and where he dares takes the liberty, very insolent. He is totally unacquainted with the Country or with the quality or value of the articles wanted, and yet, you will please to observe, by his powers, that he is unlimited as to quantity, quality, or price. He must have been a stranger to Mr. Edwards, as he had but lately come from Ireland, when I hired him.

I hope you will attribute this representation of facts to the true motive, which is my desire of delivering the people from the oppression which they have too long laboured under, by being harrassed and abused by persons of Mr. Maguire's stamp.

I have the honor to be sir,

your most ob^t serv^t,

G^o WASHINGTON.

P. S. I have rec^d yours of the 13^th instant.*

Directed,

On public service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Pres^t of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster. G^o Washington.

Relative to Pat. Maguire's app^t as Deputy Comm^ry.

* See page 416.

Council to Lieutenants of York & Cumberland, 1778.

Lancaster, April 17th, 1778.

Sir,

Council feel themselve sin a very irksome circumstance. On the application of His Excellency the General, I undertook to keep up 1000 of the Militia of this State in the field during the winter months. I have accordingly issued orders in due time to the Lieutenants of divers Counties, & had these been complied with in any tolerable degree, the number required would have been amply provided. But from whatsoever cause the defect has arisen, I am sorry to say, that the General has had great reason to complain of Pennsylvania, & to think hardly of the Council concerning this matter. It must astonish the distant States, & Congress to find the State invaded so very inattentive & backward, & the Inhabitants of this, in the Vicinity of the Enemy left open to the ravages of the foe, by the unfeeling neglect of the more distant setlers who have not yet taken their Tour of duty, must resent their conduct as inhuman.

When the Continental Battalions can be replenished, & the established force of the State called, I hope that the stated service of Militia may be spared, & their exertions reserved for special occasions. In the mean time, as you regard the honor of government, the character of the State in general & of y^e^ County in particular. the good of the great cause in which we are engaged, and your own good name, I pray you to make use of every effort & argument to induce the Militia of your County who have been ordered out, to join Gen^l^ Lacy without delay. I shall be glad to hear from you of your success, & of the number sent down.

Indorsed,

To the Lieutenants of York and Cumberland.

Council to James Mease, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 17, 1778.

Sir,

The repeated and very earnest representations which this Council has received, from many officers of the Pennsylvania battalions in continental service, of the great and distressing want of shirts among the soldiers, lays the Council under a necessity of requesting, that you will supply them immediately if it is in your power. Should

you not have ready made shirts, sufficient to supply the demand for the troops of this State, it will be absolutely necessary to exert every possible means to have them made without delay, and this Council are so distressed with the complaints of the officers on this subject, that however unwilling to interfere in your department, we are induced to agree to receive linnen and to procure shirts to be made for them. Lieu^{t} Co^{l} Bayard sends an express to you for your answer on this subject.

Indorsed,

To James Mease Esq^{r}, Clothier Gen^{l} at York.

Council to Jonathan B. Smith, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, April 17, 1778.

Sir,

This minute I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 16,* enclosing an order on the Commissioner of the Loan Office for 20,000 Dollars, to be applyed towards the payment of Horses, now purchasing by the Commissioners. I understand Mr. Smith, the Comm^{r} of the Loan Office, has been absent for some days. The last order has not been fully paid, and therefore, when he returns, it is doubtful if he will have it in his power to pay them immediately. This will distress Council, as our Treasury is entirely exhausted, and many demands of the Militia & others of a long standing.

I will urge the Committee, appointed by the Assembly, to make up the acco^{t} against the Prisoners as soon as possible. I am afraid this State will suffer considerably on this head, as I am confident large sums have been paid by the Committee & Council of Safety, which, for the want of time to examine all the Papers, cannot at present.

I am sir,

your very hum^{e} serv^{t},

P. S. Since the above, I have been told, the Committee has forwarded the acc^{t} against the Prisoners.

Directed,

Mr. Jonathan Bayard Smith, Esqr.

* See page 420.

† Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 465.

General Anthony Wayne to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Mount Joy, 18th April, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Col. Butler of the 9th Penns[a] Regiment, among other business wants Clothing for his Regiment. I wish him to be Indulged, if it can be done without prejudice to the other part of the line.

I have procured from Mr. Zantzinger, since November last, about five Hundred & fifty Coats; two Hundred Waistcoats; three Hundred and eighty pair of breeches, and an equal number of stockings about One Hundred pair of Shoes, and several Hundred Hatts—these have been Distributed among nine Regiments, and has only in *part* clothed about one fourth of them. All the Clothing, as yet furnished by *this State*, has been Distributed between the 3rd 6th, 9th, 12th, & 13th, which, I believe, is Rather more than came to the share of the other nine.

I therefore wish that all such Clothing as may be Ready, was sent together, and I will undertake to see Impartial Justice done to the whole, for I believe no one at present, if better off than an other, except Col. Stewarts & Col. Hartleys, which are well clothed —most of the others are in a wretched condition.

I am your Excellencies most

obed[t] hum[e] serv[t],

ANT'Y WAYNE, B. G.

Directed,

On publick service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr at Lancaster. Anthony Wayne.

James Mease to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 18 April, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honor of your Excellency's favor of yesterday, & am sorry to find there is any complaints from the Troops of this State for want of Shirts. I did imagine the very great supplies of that article, which have been sent to Camp, would have made the army tollerably comfortable in that way; but I fear the practice of issuing necessaries at Camp, is in itself one great cause of their never being satisfied. I have furnished Col. Broadhead here with 200 for his Regiment, & supplied Hartleys also, & have but few left here which

are not worth while forwarding, as parties are dayly passing w^h require some. What may be at Lancaster I do not at present know, but shall be there on Monday, & whatever can be spared, shall be furnished for the use of the Pennsylvanians. I am extrem'ly oblig'd to the Hon'ble Council for their unwillingness to interfere in my department, & shall always be ready to co-opperate with their views in whatever may tend to the good of the public, & flatter myself the Council have never found me disinclined to pay due attention to any direction of theirs, whilst consistent with what appeared the line of my duty.

I have the honor to be,
with all due respect,
your Exc^ys & the Councils
most obed^t hum^e serv^t,
JAMES MEASE, C^ler Gen^l.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., President of the Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, April 18th, 1778.

Sir,

The Board have been honored with your letter of the 17^th instant, on the Subject of purchasing Horses, & as your Postscript mentions your Receipt of the order for twenty thousand Dollars on the Loan Office, the Board presume it to be unnecessary to send Money agreeably to your Excellency's Request. A Copy of yours has been transmitted to the Quarter Master General, with Directions for him to take order for the reviewing of the Horses from the Commissioners appointed by the Council, but it will be necessary that General Greene be informed of the Names of those Commiss^rs, & of the Places where the Horses are. The Orders of the Hon. Council to them will be requisite, it is presumed, before they will deliver the Horses to the Q^r M^r Gen'l.

By Order of Congress we enclose their Resolution of yesterday, & make no doubt your Excellency & the Hon. Council will take the proper steps for a Compliance therewith.

I have the Honour to be,
your very obed^t serv^t,
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order of the Board.

P. S. A general Order on the Commissioners, in the several

Counties, enclosed to General Greene, who is directed to order his Deputies to receive them, will perhaps answer every purpose. Should any additional sums of Money be necessary, we conceive application should be made by the Com'rs to the Q'r M'r Gen'l.

Directed,

On public Service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

(War Office.)

Council to Genl. Washington, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 20th, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday I had the honor to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 17 Inst.,* inclosing the instructions of Mr. Thomas Edwards, one of the Commissioners of this County for purchasing Flour, &c., to Patrick Maguire.

The liberty therein given by Mr. Edwards to Maguire is as extraordinary as it is injurious, and by no means consistant with the order which he received from Council.

It is owing to such conduct as this that not only your Excellency, but the Council meets with many embarrassments & Delays in executing the Publick business; I am happy, however, in thinking that a very different conduct will soon be observed. The gentlemen who have undertaken the Quarter Masters Department seem well calculated to perform that business in a way that will give satisfaction, both to the army & inhabitants. To effect this, they may depend upon having every possible assistance from Council.

Mr. Edwards is an active man, and has taken great pains to serve his country, by extraordinary exertions on his first appointment, when the army was in great want of meat; He has, nevertheless, in the instance of Maguire, discovered great want of method. I purpose to write to him on the subject, and caution him against acting so imprudent a part in future.

I have the Honor to be,
with great respect,
Your Excell. obedient servant.

P. I hope the Commissary department, in all its branches, will be put into such hands, within a short time, as to make the continuance of the Commissioners under our law altogether unnecessary.

Directed,

To His Excell. Gen. Washington.

* See page 425.

Circular of Council to Commis'ers of Provisions, 1778.

In Council.

Lancaster, April 21st, 1778.

Sir,

You will observe by the above resolve of Congress, that you are to desist from making any further purchases of wheat or flour for the army. You will therefore transmit to Council, immediately, an exact account of the purchases you have already made, that I may forward it to the Commissary General and board of war. In case you are applied to by the forage master general, Colonel Clement Biddle, to purchase forage for the army, you will remember that it is not connected with the other purchase, and if you act therein you are to account with Colonel for anything you buy agreeable to his orders.

By order of Council.

Indorsed,

Circular Letter to the commissioners of the several counties for purchasing provisions, &c[a].

Wm. Hart to Council, 1778.

Bucks County, April 21st, 1778.

Pardon My Importunity In Troubling Council so often with Regard To money; As I shall Be obliged to Return some of ye horses to ye owners If money Dos Not Come By ye Bearer, Mr. Greer. I have Nearly got my Compliment, And If Council thinks proper, Could get A few more; ye Bearer Can Inform you Nearly with Regard to ye Cost of ye horses, If you Interrogate him, so that you may know what Cash to send.

I am, gentlemen,

your very Humble servant,

WM. HART.

* See page 422.

Col. Andw. Boyd to President Wharton, 1778.

Sadsbury, 22ª April, 1778.

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency of a set of Tory horse thiefs that is in this county between this & Chester Town. The come high up in the county, and takes all the best horses from those who do not think and act as the do, in particular the horses that is sold for Fines. A few days since I sold a number of horses & cattle, and two nights after six of the horses was stolen; they take all such to Philadelphia. If that something is not done to prevent such evil conduct, many honest families will be unable to till their farms.

They Quakers hath insulted and even atempted to fire on two diferent guards that I had collecting fines.

Part of the County that Joyns on my District has not had any Fines demanded of them, which incensces these that is taken from.

I am, Sir,

with the utmost Respect,

Your Excellencys

Very Humᵉ Servᵗ,

ANDW. BOYD, S. Lt.

Directed,

His Thomas Wharton, Lancaster.

Capt. Alexr. Patterson to Council, 1778.

Easton, April 22d, 1778.

To the Honourable Executive Council for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Agreeable to the Orders given to me from from your Honours in the Recruiting service, I beg leave to transmit to you an account of my bad success in that Business. I have used Every means in my Power to Engage men for the Service, and has spent a great Deal of money in traveling through this County To Little Purpose, I have only Enlisted Eight Men, five of which I have sent to Camp by an Officer whom Colˡ Humpton sent from Bethlehem, the other three are Deserted. I have no hopes of Doing any good for my Country in this service, Therefore would beg your Honours, if it be your Pleasure, to Order me to Camp, where perhaps I may be of some.

I am your Honours

Most Obedient

Humble Servᵗ,

ALEXʳ PATTERSON,

Capᵗ 12 P. R.

Directed,

To The Honourable Executive Council for the Commonwealth of Pennsyl., Lancaster.

Vice Pres. Bryan to James Hamilton, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 23d, 1778.

Sir,

Herewith you have an order of Council for your discharge, and also your Parole. You are therefore at full Liberty to act as you shall see best.

The Legislature of this State has passed an Act entitled "An Act for the further Security of Government, which requires all Persons who have heretofore held & exercised, or who now hold or exercise any office or offices by Commission, &c., under the Crown of Great Britain, and who have not already renounced the same, &c, or who shall not on or before the First day of June next, &c., renounce such Commission, by taking the Oath of Allegiance by the Act of the 13th June last, required to be taken, &c., shall forfeit, as is expressed in the first mentioned Act. This it is thought proper to communicate, lest you may not be informed on a subject of such Importance to you, as this must appear to be. I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient
& very humble Servt,
GEO. BRYAN,
Vice President.

Directed,

To James Hamilton, Esquire,

I, the Subscriber, do certify that the within written Letter is a true Transcript or Copy of the Original Letter received by me from the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and according to the direction of Council, the said Original was by me delivered this Day into the Hands of the within named James Hamilton, Esquire, in the Presence of Ball, Esquire, a Senior Surgeon of the Military Hospital for the Middle department. Witness my Hand, the 27th day of April, A. D. 1778.

ROBERT LEVERS.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,
April 28, 1778.

Whereas Persuasion and Influence, the Example of the Deluded or Wicked, the Fear of Danger, or the Calamities of War, may have induced some of the Subjects of these States to join, aid or abet the

British Forces in *America*, and who, tho' now desirous of returning to their Duty, and anxiously wishing to be received and reunited to their Country, may be deterred by the Fear of Punishment: And whereas the People of these States are ever more ready to reclaim than to abandon, to mitigate than to increase the Horrors of War, to pardon than to punish Offenders:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several States to pass Laws, or to the Executive Authority of each State, if invested with sufficient Power, to issue Proclamations, offering Pardon, with such Exceptions, and under such Limitations and Restrictions as they shall think expedient, to such of their Inhabitants or Subjects, as have levied War against any of these States, or adhered to, aided or abetted the Enemy, and shall surrender themselves to any Civil or Military Officer of any of these States, and shall return to the State to which they may belong before the 10th day of *June* next. And it is recommended to the good and faithful Citizens of these States to receive such returning Penitents with Compassion and Mercy, and to forgive and bury in Oblivion their past Failings and Transgressions.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secretary.*

Council to State Navy Board, 1778.

Lancaster, 23d April, 1778.

Gentlemen,

As the Galleys & other Vessels on the Delaware, lately under your direction, have been dismantled, the further continuance at Trenton of the Seamen & others, who served in them, is become needless. They may be usefully employed as Guards in the interior parts of this State, or in assisting in the transporting over the greater Rivers Stores & Soldiers.

For this End, I desire you will send the privates of this Corps by the most direct road to Reading, in Berks County, & thence to this place. Herewith you have an order to the Waggon Master of Bucks County, to furnish a sufficient number of Carriages for the transportation of their necessary Baggage, & of the sick & disabled. As to the officers, you are to dismiss the whole, save 15 or 20, with a bounty of two months pay, over & above the pay in arrear. They have been supported through the winter, & have now the benefit of the best Season to look out for new employment. I think they must be satisfied with the Council.

These (15 or 20) Officers are to take the command of their people, keep good order & discipline among them, & proceed hither as soon as may be. An order from you to the Senior officer will be requi-

* From a printed handbill.

site. Mr. Crispin, the Commissary, will, I hope, be able to provide rations for their march.

Mr. Blewer informs Council, that a Considerable number of Musquetts, & other Small Arms, & some Gunpowder, belonging to the State, are lodged at Pitts-Town, in New Jersey. These Stores I wish to be in a more convenient Situation, & within our jurisdiction. You are to procure a sufficiency of Carriages from the Waggon Master of Northampton County for this purpose. On delivery of the inclosed Letter Mr. Crider will send you the necessary Teams. Send them to the care of Joseph Deane, Esquire, of Easton. It is left to your prudence to judge, whether our Sails at Pitts-Town ought to be Secured at Easton also. One officer & some few privates should be continued at Pitts-Town, whilst the more valuable & less cumbrous goods remain there. He may attend the Waggons to Easton, & then march his party to this place. I write to Moore Furman, Esquire, of Pitts-Town, to take care of the Stores which may be left behind, & it will be very proper that a prudent person, residing near the Falls of Delaware, be engaged to give some attention to the Vessels left in that neighbourhood, & to the Cannon & Shot, which belong to them. Perhaps Joseph Kirkbride, Esquire, may be induced to undertake this. Council would be very happy in hearing that Mr. Kirkbride had said he would do it; for this purpose, I write to him on the subject. It will be proper that the person appointed be informed how the Vessels & other articles are disposed of.

I send down by Mr. Blewer, to be delivered to Mr. Crispin, a supply of money, to discharge the most urgent demands, & to pay off the officers who may be dismissed.

State Navy Board.

Council to Robt. Levers, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 23d, 1778.

Sir,

Council having determined to discharge the honourable James Hamilton, Esquire, late prothonotary of the County of Philadelphia, from his parole, & to liberate him from all Restraint whatever, do enclose herewith, the written promise taken from him at the time of his arrest. You are therefore requested, in Company with a person of Character, to wait on Mr. Hamilton, at his house at Northampton, & there deliver the open Letter for him, having first Copied & compared the Copy with the original; and it is desired that you declare n behalf of the Council, that he is discharged, liberated & given up

to his own unrestrained disposal, & you are to deliver up to him the written Engagement above mentioned, & to receive the Counter writing in Mr. Hamilton's possession.

At the same time you will oblige me, & perhaps serve Mr. Hamilton, by furnishing for his perusal a Copy of the late Act of Assembly, for the further Security of the Government, passed on the first day of April, 1778.

It may not be amiss, that a memorandum be made of the date & circumstances attending this visit, for the better recollection thereof at a future day.

I inclose you also the parole of Lewis Gordon, Esquire, of your County, & desire you may discharge him in like manner as is above directed in the Case of Mr. Hamilton.

Depending on your early attention to the premises,

I am, Sir,

Your very hum. Servt.

Robert Levers, Esqr.

Gen. Dan'l Roberdeau to John Carothers, 1778.

Standing Stone, April 23d, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed was put into my hands to be forwarded to you by express. The inteligence it contains is abundantly confirmed by several persons I have examined, both fugitives from the fronteers, & some volunteers that have returned for an imediate supply of amunition & provisions, to be sent forward to Sinking Spring Vally, as the Troops will be obliged to quit the service without they are supplied without Delay. Want of arms prevents those who would turn out, I shall furnish what I brought from Carlisle as soon as they come forward, but it is very unfortunate that these arms & the amunition which is comming by watter have been retarded by contrary wind, & probably the Lowness of the watter, to remedy this I have Dispatched two canoes this morning to meet them on the way. I am giving Mr. Brown, who is here, every assistance in my power, but your aid is greatly wanted to stimulate the militia & furnish arms, Amunition, pack horses, & every thing necessary in your Line of Duty. The insurgents from this Neighbourhood, I am informed, are about thirty, one of them (Hess) has been taken & confession extorted, from which it appears that this Banditti expect to be joined by 300 men from the other side the Aleganey; reports more vague, mention 1000 Whites & Savages. The supply of provisions for so great a number renders it improbable, but in answer to this I have

been informed by the most credable in this neighbourhood, that strangers, supposed to be from Detroit, have been this winter among the Disaffected Inhabitants, & have removed with them. If you have authority to call out the militia, in proportion to the exigence of the times, I think it of greate importance that a considerable number of men should be immediatly embodied & sent forward to meet the enemy, for it cannot be expected that the Volunteers will long continue in Service, and I find that the recruiting the three companies goes on too slow to expect a seasonable supply from them of any considerable numbers; if you have not authority to call the necessary aid of militia, you no doubt will apply to the Hon^e the Council, & may furnish them with my sentiments, & to the board of war for arms & Amunition. With ten men here under the command of Lieut. Clugage, in continental service, untill the 1st Dec^r next, I intend to move forward as soon as the arms, ammunition and other things comes forward, to afford an escort to Sinking Spring Valley, where I shall be glad to meet as great a number of militia as you will station there, to enable me to erect a Stockade to secure the works so necessary to the public service, & give confidence to the fronteer Inhabitants, by affording an Assylum for their women & children. These objects, I doubt not, you will think worthy your immediate attention and utmost exertion, which I can assure you, making the fullest allowance for the timidity of some & credulity of others, is a very serious matter, for without immediate aid the fronteers will be evacuated, for all that I have been able to say has been of no avail with the fugitives I have met on the roads, a most Distressing sight of men, women & children flying thro fear of a cruel enemy.

I am respectfully,

Sir, your most obt.

Humble Serv^t.

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P. S. You'l please to pay the express a reasonable allowance for his service.

A copy of this to Council or Board of War will effect any thing I can Do by Writing.

A True Copy.

John Carothers, Esq^r.

—

Sir,

Be pleased to send Expresses to Lt. Carothers by the first opportunity, to give him some account of insurections on the South mountain, & Likewise to enspect very closely into who is abroad at this time & upon what occasion, as there is a suspision, by information,

of other insurections Riseing in other parts of the county of Cumberland, and in so Doing you will oblidge your friend, to serve

ROBERT SMITH.

April 23d, 1778.

A True Copy.

Directed,

To Mr. Robert Clugage, Esq^r.

Lt. Carothers to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, April 24, 1778.

Sir,

I Rec^d your Letter of the 17th Instant, and am heartely sorrey that the State of Pennsylvania in general, & this County in particular, should be found so extreamly backward in marching out in Defence of rights so invaluable as those for which the Americans are now contending, when one manly effort would, in all human probability, work out our political Salvation. Since I received the order of Council, for the immediate march of the seventh and eight classes of this county, I have done every thing in my power to induce them to turn out, but notwithstanding my Diligence, with the assistance of many other Spirited friends to our American Cause, we have been Greatly Disappointed; about 370 privates, exclusive of officers, is now on their way to camp, the marching classes of the fifth Battalion I have been obliged to send up to Sinking Valley & Bald Eagle, which will amount to nearly 70 privates—the fronteers in those parts have been greatly alarmed of Late by a number of Tories who have Banded together, threatning vengence to all who have Taken the Oath of Aleigance to the States. This moment I Rec^d an express from Kishycoquilles for a supply of arms, & that Col. McLevy, of Bedford County, came there express himself with an account, that a body of Tories, near 320, in and above Standing Stone, had collected themselves together & Drove a number of the inhabitants from Standing Stone Town. Immediately Col. Buchanan & Col. Brown marched off with a few men who Could be got equipt, we are waiting with impatience the issue. I have applied to the Board of War for some amunition, which I have sent up with 18 muskets, the property of this State, which, with some arms which General Roberdeau took up to those parts lately, will, I expect, be sufficient to arm those Classes—wither this force will be sufficient for the present exegencey I know not. I look upon myself not sufficiently authorised to Call any more Classes of militia, if needed, without an order of Council for that purpose, in the mean time we

think it our Duty to Do every thing in our power to bring those Deluded people to Justice. I expect every moment an account from Col. Buchanan, the particulars of which I intend to transmit to Council, in hope of their Instruction in the matter. The present hury of buisness has prevented my geting the returns called for by the order of Council of ye 2d Instant, as far forward as I expected—the resolves of Assembly, for raising the quota of this State for the Continental army, & the manner for compleating it, is Generally objected against in this County. I fear it will be Defecult to carry it into execution here. I have not room to mention any of the objections.

I am, Sir, with respect,

Your very Humble Servant,

JN° CAROTHERS, L. C. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Council to Moore Furman, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 24th, 1778.

Sir,

The Pennsylvania State Navy Board, sent some time since to Pitts-Town, Arms, Ammunition, Sails & Rigging, belonging to our Fleet, part of these Council think it necessary to remove on this Side the River, some part, however, the most bulkey, may remain; I have, therefore, to request the favor of you to have an Eye to what. may be left, and employ persons, when necessary, to remove them further from the enemy. Any expence you may be at, for Stores, Waggons, &c., shall be repaid with thanks.

I am, with great respect,

Sir, your very hum. Sert.

Moore Furman, Esq., Pitts-Town, New Jersey

Council to William Crispin, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 24, 1778.

Sir,

As the Gallies and other Vessels on the Delaware belonging to this state, are dismantled, it is unnecessary to continue the seamen in Jersey any longer, but proper that they should be ordered to this place & by way of Reading, that they may be put into a Line of rendering service to their Country. Council has therefore given such directions to the Navy Board—it will be proper for you to provide Provisions for them on their March. Orders are sent to the Waggon Master of Bucks County to furnish Waggons, as the Navy Board may require to convey the Baggage & sick to this place.

Capt. Blewer takes with him Money & Certificates to amount of ——— Dollars, to repay the money borrowed by the Navy Board, for which you are charged, and must therefore be brought into your account. Besides this he will deliver you ——— Dollars, to be apply'd to discharge the debts which you have or may contract on account the Fleet. I hope this will be found sufficient to pay off all arrearages. As you will shortly have leasure, I request you will, as soon as possible, make up all your accounts and furnish Council with them.

I am, Sir,

Your very Hum. Servt.

The Comr is allowed Six Rations, you must deduct those already furnished.

Directed.

To Mr. William Crispin.

Major Lee to President Wharton, 1778.

Nottingham,
April 24th, '78.

Sir,

Being acquainted that there are some excellent horses for the dragoon service, now in Lancaster, purchased by your Excellency's orders, I have taken the liberty to solicit them for the use of my Corps.

Should any previous questions arise, by which means my request may not meet with immediate success, I beg your Excellency will please to bear in remembrance my application.

I flatter myself, when it is considered at what an advanced season of the year the corps of partizan dragoons was directed to be raised, that the officers will receive every convenient aid from the Legislatures of the contiguous States, to enable them to take the field with all possible dispatch.

Lieutenant Rudolph will deliver this dispatch, and awaits your Excellency's commands.

I have the honor
To be, Sir,
With profound respect,
Your Excellency's
Most obed't H^e serv^t,
THOS. LEE,
Major L. D.

Directed,
To Thomas Wharton, Jr., esq^r.

Col. Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1778.

Reading,
April 24th, 1778.

Sir,

I have orders to get the Roads mended through Berks County, and know of no way to get hands to do it without the militia can be employed in that service. Until last week there was not more than 12 or 14 of them on duty, now there is a Subaltern Guard of 18 men on duty here, and 1 Serg^t and 9 Privates at one Boon's Mill, about 7 miles below this, where we had, this week, 500 knapsacks, which were painting, destroyed by fire by some vilan. If council thought proper I should be exceeding glad you'd please to order fifty daily for that service. With my best respects to Hon^ble Gen^n of Council.

I am your Excellency's
Most obed't Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, Jr.
D. Q. M. Genl.

Directed,
To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq^r, Pres^t.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,

April 24th, 1778.

Resolved,

That the board of war be directed to take the most expeditious measures for transporting the public provisions & stores from the southern states across the Chesapeake bay, or otherwise.

That it be recommended to the governments of the State of Maryland & Virginia to permit the armed gallies belonging to their respective states to be employed for the purpose above mentioned, at the Continental expence; and that the whole of the vessels so employed be put under the command of a continental officer, in order to prevent any ill consequences which may arise from a disputed command betwixt the state officers.

That it be recommended to the government of the State of Pennsylvania to furnish the board of war with as many sailors now employed in the service of their state as they can spare, for the purpose of manning the Maryland and Virginia gallies to be employed in the Chesapeake bay.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Deposition of William Harper, 1778.

Chester County:

Personally apeard before me, Thomas Boyd, one of the justices of ye Peace in & for the County afores^d & State of Pennsylvania, William Harper, of the Township of Newlin & County afores^d, did on his Solem Oath declare, that on Tuesday, the 13th of this Inst April, a surtan William Marsh, Junr, of ye Township of Sadsbury, County afores^d, and a surtan Clemson, of Lancaster County, Isaac Buffington & William Stroud, of West Bradford, did Buy hornd Cattle from Charles Wilson, of Newlin, and sayd they intended to take s^d Cattle to Philadelphia, & that Charles Wilson wished them good luck; and that David Pierce, of s^d Township of Newlin, gave me, the Subscriber, a Quanty of Lead & a bullet mould, telling me y^t if I cood find powder that I might kill ye Rebels, meaning the Whigs. And James McLaughlan, of East Marlborough, & Jacob Buffington took several Cattle at the same time to Philadelphia, and that Isaac Shaw & William McCool helpd to drive s^d Cattle.

And further this Deponent says, that on the 21st of this Inst, Abram Thorp, Andw McGuire, John McGuire, David Pierce, William McCool, and John Bulla did seize & tye him, the sd Deponent, and left him bound in an uninhabited house without any necessaries of life, from which he was accidentally relieved; and further sayeth not.

his
WM. ⋈ HARPER.
mark.

April 24th, 1778.
Taken and subscribed before
THOS. BOYD.

John Gourla to President Wharton, 1778.

Hannas Town, Apl 25th, 1778.

I Return Hearty Thanks to your Honors for your Confidence in me in appointing me for Purchasing Horses Suitable to mount the Cavalry. Since I Received my Instructions I have used all possible Endeavours to Purchase the Quantity required, and can Obtain a few on my own Credit and have Engaged some; but I find that I cannot obtain the Quantity wanted without Cash or giving Exorbitant Prices, which I presume would be hurtfull to the States. Therefore I hope you will Enable me with money to Purchase, I will be able to fill my Quota of Horses in a short time; which money I hope you will send by the Bearer, Mr. George Henry, to Colt Archibald Lochry for that use, as Loan Office Certificates doth not seemingly answer so good Purposes as the Cash doth. This from yr most Humble servt.

JOHN GOURLA.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Presedent of the Supreme Executive Council, &c.

Forwarded by
Mr Geo Henry.

N. Greene, Q. M. G., to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Camp Valley Forge,
April 26, 1778.

Sir,

The bearer hereof, Captain Smith of Colº Baylor's light Dragoons, will apply for the horses purchased for the Dragoon service. Your Excellency will please to give the necessary Orders to have them delivered to him.

I am your Excellency's
most Obedient
humble Servant,

NATH. GREENE, Q. M. G.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, April 26th, 1778.

Sir,

The Board have been honoured with yours of the 25th by Lieut Rudolph, & are surprized you have not received their Letter on the Subject of Horses purchased for the Light Dragoons, Copy of which is enclosed, the original being sent by the Return of your Express.

As Mr. Rudolph informs us that the Horses are suffering, & are an Incumbrance where they are, on acct of the Scarcity of Forage at Lancaster, the Board desire you will be pleased to order the delivery of such as are fit for Service to Major Lee; & as to the Rest, both in Lancaster & the other Counties, you will be pleased to direct them to be delivered agreeable to our former Letter.

I have the Honour to be
with great Respect,
your very obed. Servt,

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order of the Board.

Directed,

On public service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr, President of the S. E. Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Col. John Proctor to President Wharton, 1778.

Westmorland County, Apr^{r} y^{e} 26th, 1778.

Hounored Sir,

I am in greait need of a larg sum of Cash. I hope you will send me by the Bairor, M^{r} George Hendry, foure thousand Pounds if Posable; he is a safe Hand, and what Ever sum you send me by him I will be answerable for. I would a ben Down myself, but though it unsafe to lave Hom at this time.

Sir, I am able to inform you that Capt. Alexander McKee with sevin other Vilons is gon to the Indians, and since there is a serj't and twenty od men gon from Pittsburgh of the Solders. What may be the fate of this County God only knowes, but at Prisent it wears a most Dismal aspect.

I am Sir,

your Most sincare

and Very Humble Servt.,

JOHN PROCTOR.*

Directed.

To His Excelency Thomas Wharton.
By Mr. George Hendry.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, 26th April, 1778.

Sir,

The season for action is advancing very fast, and it is highly necessary for me, in forming plans either offensive or defensive, to know with certainty what succours I may look for from the country in any emergency. With this view, I am to request you will be pleased to let me know as speedily as possible, what number of *well armed* Militia your State could afford if called upon, and what time of service they might be engaged for—I am particular as to their being armed, because they cannot be supplied with arms from the continental Stores.

It is of very great importance that your estimate should be well

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 477.

considered, that the experiment may not disappoint any expectations or projects, which may be formed in consequence.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect, Sir,
Your most obed^{t} Serv^{t},
G^{o} WASHINGTON.

Be so good also, to let me know in how short a time, after requisition is made, they could be drawn into the Field.*

His Excellency, Gov^{r} Wharton.

Indorsement,

1778, red^{a} April 28th, from his Excellency, General Washington, requiring the State to say how many *well armed* men can be furnished for action.

Gen. Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1778.

Sinking Spring Valley, April 27th, 1778.

Sir,

I have little more time than to refer you to the enclosed examination, taken in great haste, but correct as it respects the Testimony. The confiscation of the Effects of the Disaffected in these parts, is very irregular, and the brutality offered to the Wives and children of some of them, as I have been informed, in taking from them even their wearing apparel, is shocking. I wish the Magistrates were furnished with the late law respecting confiscation, and that they were more capable Ministers of Justice; the one I have seen is such a specimen of the popular election of these Officers as I expected. I am happy to inform you that a very late discovery of a new vein, promises the most ample supply; but I am very deficient in workmen. M^{r} Glen is with me to direct the making and burning of Bricks, and is to come up to build a Furnace, by which time I expect to be in such forwardness as to afford an ample supply to the Army. The want of Provision, I dread, notwithstandiug the active endeavours of M^{r} Brown for it, is scarcely to be got; therefore I beg leave to refer you to hint on this subject in my Letter from Carlisle. Of 40 Militia, I have at most, seven with me, which retards building a Stockade to give confidence to the Inhabitants, who were all on the wing before I reached this. I send Richard Weston, under guard, to Carlisle Jail, to wait your orders; he is conducted by Lieu^{t}

* The P. S. is in the General's own hand writing.

John Means, of the Militia. The Inhabitants are hunting the other Insurgents, and hope they will all be taken, but wish any other the trouble of examining them, as my hands are full. I am, with Respectful Salutations to Council, Sir,

Y^r^ most ob^t^ humb^l^ Ser^t^,

DAN^l^ ROBERDEAU.

Directed.—On public Service.

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun^r^, Esq^r^, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favored by
Lieu^t^ Means.

JNO. CAROTHERS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

Carlisle, April 27, 1778.

Sir,

You have enclosed a True copy of General Roberdeau's Letter, Dated Standing Stone, 23^d^ Instant,* which contains a more perfect account of the insurrection in those parts than I was able to give council in my former Letter. The back inhabitants are prodigiously Distressed, not knowing when those Vilians may bring down the savages to murder their families. How far those allarms may prove True cannot yet be known. There are many Disaffected persons gon out of the parts, but where or for what purpose we cannot tell; several have been known to purchase rifle guns, who always refused to turn out in the Militia. The Council, upon the perusal of the General's Letter, will be able to know what is necessary for me to Do in the matter. The classes ordered to do Duty there, cannot turn out for want of arms; I have sent up 100 arms, which was all I had in my possession, which, with 24 the general took with him, is all they have to trust to, & they only Muskets, which are not sutable for scouting parties in the woods, when it is well known the Tories are well armed with good rifles. I could purchase some few Muskets here, but the prices are so extraordinary high that I Dare not venture. I wou'd be glad to have the council's Directions if I am to purchase Muskets or rifles, & what prices I ought to give.

I am, Sir,

Your Very Humble Serv^t^,

JN^o^ CAROTHERS, L. C. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun^r^, Esq^r^, Presedent of the executive Council for The State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

* See page 436.

Col. Robert Culbertson to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, April 28th, 1778.

Dr Sir,

In consequence of your Excel^{s} orders, I have purchased Twenty horses in my opinion, Suitable for the Lite horse Service, fifteen of which is now bequipt with bridles & saddles ready to be delivered to aney parson your Exelincy may appoint, or order them to be delivered to. Am out of cash, and on the borrowing hand, please to order me such sums of cash as will enable me to proceed as far as you woud Choos.

And am with due Regard

your Excelincys most

obediant & hum^{l} Serv^{t}

ROB'T CULBERTSON.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 28th April, 1778.

Sir,

The 24th Inst, I had the honour of conveying a packet to your Excellency containing two Acts of Congress, 1 of the 22^{d} & 1 one of the 24th Inst, to which I beg leave to refer.

Within the present Cover I transmit an Act of the 23^{d} for granting pardons & Recommending to the several States to enact Laws or Issue Proclamations adapted to the good purposes which Congress have in view.

I have the honour to be

With great regard Sir,

your Excellencey's

most obedient Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Thos. Edwards to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Lebanon, Ap^{l} 28th, 1778.

I have Rec'd your Honors ordr^{s} of the 21st Ap^{l} Inst accompanied with a resolve of Congress, by which I am directed to desist from making any further Purchases of Wheat & Flour for the Army, and that I shou'd immediately Transmit my acc^{t} to Council, In ans^{r} to which I beg leave to mention, y^{t} Quantities of Flour & Wheat are lying at different Mills through the County, which I cou'd not collect together for want of Carriages, therefore wou'd think it proper that y^{r} Honors appoint some Person to receive such stores from my hands and take charge thereof, I would further beg leave to observe that there is no beef on hand for the Consumption of the Artificers & Militia Station'd at Lebanon, therefore some person immediately ought to take in hand the Procuring of meat for that place, have scarcely as much now as will supply them this week, I'm ready & willing immediately after having made delivery of the Stores to render a full account of my Proceedings.

I am in haste your

Honors most Humble &

most Obedient Servant,

THOS. EDWARDS.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellency Thos. Wharton, jun., Esq., of the S. E. C., at Lancaster.

Ab'm Levan to President Wharton 1778.

Northampton County, Allen Town, April 28th, 1778.

Honoured Sir,

I did myself the honour some time ago of writing a few lines informing you that I had purchased fourteen Horses for the publick Service, agreeable to the Commands your hon^{r} was pleased to lay upon me; Since then I have bought six which makes 20. I wou'd be exceeding fond your hon^{r} wou'd direct where I might send them, as forage is exceeding scarce in these parts, I shall do my utmost endeavours to procure the Compliment first mention'd, but there a difficulty arises, my Cash is grown short, which is an obsticle in the way, as they look for the ready cash, when the horse is delivered,

this objection I make no doubt you'l indeavour to remove as soon as convenient.

I am Honour'd Sir

with all possible respect

y^r Honors most obed^t Hum^e Serv^t.

ABRAHAM LEVAN.

P. S. He expect a line by first opportunity.

Col. Benj. Flower to Council, 1778.

York Town, 28th April, 1778.

Gentlemen,

On my way from Lebanon to Carlisle, I observed the public roads between those places Intolerably bad, the waggons that travel them do not carry more than two thirds of a load on that account. In the first place with submission to your Honours, I think they ought to be open'd to fifty or sixty feet, whereas in many places they are not above half that width, which is one reason why they are so much cut, these are roads the public stores are Constantly moveing on, and should a general remove from Lebanon to Carlisle take place, the public will suffer very much. I have therefore to Request that your Honours will please to direct that the several supervisors of those Roads in the Different routs from camp to the several Magazines in this State (Especially those already mentioned), be Immediately repaired.

Mr. Harris at the Ferry on Susquehannah has offer'd to Superintend the repairing of all Roads from his ferry to Lebanon, if your Honours thought proper to give him such Instructions, as this business is essential to the Public Service, (and now the proper season to do it in) I hope Council will immediately give the necessary directions therein which will particularly Oblige your,

Hon^r most Obed^t

Very Hum^e Serv^t

BENJ. FLOWER, Col^o.

Com^y Gen. Mil^y Stores.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Hon'ble Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

* See Col. Rec., Vol., VI. p. 481.

Gen. Anth'y Wayne to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Mount Joy, April 28th 1778.

Sir,

Lieft. Armour of 4th Penns[a] Regiment, being thought a Proper Person for the Recruiting Service, General Wayne now orders him on that Duty, to wait on your Excellency for your orders.

Their is no officer during the time of recruiting last year did more to the Credit of this State, than this Gentleman, and upon that Principal the Gen. now sends him, which hope will meet your approbation.

He talks of Lancaster County, near Hendersons & Wallaces Tavern for being places good for that Service, and as their has been no officers their, or in them Parts, makes it very Probable, which if you acquiess, you will direct him accordingly.

However the General does not wish to have him Limited to any Particular Place, as such must Inevitably Impede his Service.

I am your Excellencies most

Obedient humble Servant

By order of General Wayne,

BEN. FISHBOURNE, A. D. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Governor Thos. Wharton.

Council to Wm. C. Bradford, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, April 28th, 1778.

Sir,

By Captain Blewer Council have sent you the sum of £3000, for the payment of the State fleet, concerning which you will please to receive directions from the Navy Board.

By order of Council.

Directed,

To Mr. Wm. C. Bradford, paymaster of the State fleet.

Circular of Council, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 28, 1778.
(Circular.)

Sir,

The orders, which have been given to the Lieutenants of the respective Counties, to make to this Council exact returns of the number and state of our publick Arms, important as the order is, very little regard has been paid to. The campaign is opening, in which the fate of this distressed and invaded country must be decided; and we call upon you, Sir, as you regard your own reputation and the welfare of your country, to give your immediate, diligent and earnest attention to this business. You are to make a return to this Council, as soon as possible, not exceeding the 15th or 20th day of May at farthest, of all the Arms, belonging to the Publick, within your District; and also report, what number of other arms you can, in case of the most extreme necessity, obtain by any means. The times required, that the direction given, on this occasion, should be in terms the most explicit and peremptory; and, therefore, you are hereby strictly charged and enjoined to exert every power you are possessed of to get together, without delay, all the public Arms that are within your District. It is proper to inform you, that if any neglect in the execution of this order shall hereafter appear, this Council is determined, that the Public shall be informed on whom to lay the blame of the calamity which may fall on this country from such neglect.

You are, at the same time, to acquaint the Militia of your District, that there is every reason to believe, not only from the late recommendation of Congress, that "all the Militia of the States be held "in readiness to act as occasio nmay require," but, also, from many other considerations, that a call must soon be made, for a very considerable number of them to appear in the field. In particular, you are to give immediate notice to the four classes next in turn, to hold themselves in readiness to march at short notice.*

By Order of Council,

Indorsed,

Circular Letter to the Lieutenants and sub Lieutenants of the several Countys of State of Pennsylvania.

* From a printed handbill.

Council to Peter De Haven, &c., 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 28th, 1778.

Sir,

It is necessary that Council receive the earliest information of the number of arms in and belonging to this state, as well such as are in the hands of private people, as those in possession of the Lieutenants of Counties, and in the publick Works. I therefore request you to inform me immediately what number of Muskets well fitted you have now in your possession, and how many more, you can compleatly finish by the 20th of May, be particular in the return you make and let your information be upon sure ground,* I mean that you are to include old arms properly repaired as well as new. A dilligent attention to this business and a speedy answer will oblige your Country & Sir,

your very Humⁱ Servᵗ.

Directed,

To Mr. Peter De Haven, Hummels Town.

Council to Governor Livingston, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, April 29th, 1778.

Sir,

The bearer, Jacobus Quigg, being brought down here from Virginia with the quaker prisoners, and upon enquiry no charge of any importance being now against him, it is thought proper to refer him to your Excellency; that if there be any charge against him in your state he may answer it. Major General Sullivan sent him last summer to Philadelphia from Princetown, he having been taken at or near Somerset.

Directed,

His Exc'y W. Livingston, Esqr, Gov. N. Jersey.

*To Col. Wm. Antis as far as the word *ground, with this addition *a diligent attention to this business and a speedy answer will oblige you country &

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, April 29th, 1778.

Sir,

Congress having directed the Board to superintend the Transportation of Provisions from the Southward, & there being a Number of Gallies belonging to the States of Maryland & Virginia in the Chesapeak, I am directed to apply to you & the Hon. Council to know whether there are any Men left of those by whom the Gallies in the Delaware were mann'd in the last Campaign. If there are, what are their Numbers fit for Service, & whether the State will transfer them into the Continental Service for the Purpose of navigating the Gallies in the Chesapeak. These Gallies are officered but weakly manned, & are now much wanted to protect the Craft in bringing Provisions up the Bay, for which Service they are immediately & pressingly wanted. Your speedy Answer will be very acceptable.

I have the Honour to be
with great Respect
your very obed. Servt,
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order of the Board.

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr, Esqr., President of the S. E. Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

(War Office).

Lt. John Rudolph to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

You'l receive pr. express an order from the board of war for the Horses mention'd the other day. Im inform'd Capt. Smith has delivered a General Order for all the Horses, the board say my Horses are to come out of those Horses order'd by that Gen. Order. You'l extreemly oblige our Corps by not having the Horses de-

liver'd in consequence of s[d] Genl. Order. I'm wait[s] for Cash at this place, and shall call to morrow at Lancaster for the Horses.

I'm your excellencies

most ob't humble servant,

JOHN RUDOLPH,

Lieutenant Dragoons.

29 Apl., '78.

Directed,

On public service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esqr., president state Pennsylvania.

Express.

Council to Pennsylvania Delegates in Congress, 1778.

Lancaster, 30th April, 1778.

Sirs,

The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, thoroughly persuaded that the compleat establishment of the Confederation of said States must greatly consolidate the union, & invigorate the Negotiations of Congress at this important Conjuncture, do hereby add their concurrence in the Articles of Confederation, now under public consideration, to the acceptance & consent of the Legislature of this State; & do recommend to you, Gentlemen, to use your best endeavours & influence in forwarding the said business, which Council consider as of the highest importance to the honour, advantage & safety of the united Body of North America.

I am,

Sirs,

your most obed[t]

& very humble Serv[t].

Directed,

To the Hon'l Robert Morris, Dan'l Roberdeau, James Smith, Jonathan Bayard Smith, William Clingan, and Joseph Reed, Esquires, Delegates in Congress for the State of Pennsilvania.

William Antes to President Wharton, 1778.

Newhannover Township, May the 1st 1778.

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 28th of April last past, wherein I am requested to give immediate information to Council what number of muskets well fitted are now in my possession, and how many more I could compleatly finish by the 20th of May Instant. These are therefore to inform Council that I have twenty five in my possession, and as touching what number I can finish against the twentieth of May, I do hereby inform Council that I have none that will be finished against that time, as I am not at present in a proper situation to follow that Business, neither have I heretofore followed that branch of Business for the publick, excepting in the way of Cleaning and repairing of Arms, and that about 500 stand of Arms was sent to me last fall for that purpose by General Potter, which when cleaned and repaired 361 of them were sent to the rear of the Army by order of his Excellency Genl Washington, and the remainder was sent to Militia Camp by order of Major Cummings, and that 161 muskets was sent last fall to Col. Frederick Antes for the purpose aforesaid, which hath since been taken by order of Col. Wm Henry to the Factory at Allentown, in order to be repaired there. The above is all the Information I Can give at present respecting of public arms that have Come within my district.

I am Sir, with respect,

your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM ANTES.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun'r, President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

James Hamilton to T. Matlack, 1778.

Northampton, May 1, 1778.

Sir,

Three days since, I had the Honor to receive from Mr Vice President Bryan, a letter dated the 23d of April, inclosing my written Parole, and also an Order of Council of the same date, fully discharging me from all confinement.

Being desirous to avail myself of the contents of the above order, I should have set out immediately for my own House; but on perusing

the Act of Assembly therewith likewise transmitted, Entitled "An Act for the further security of Government," I observed that there is a very high penalty upon all persons going into Philada., or within the Enemy's lines, without leave in writing for that purpose, from the "Congress, the Commander in chief of the Army of the United "States of America, or the Executive Council of this Common-"wealth." Hence it happens, that after repeated tryals, I cannot, at any rate, procure a Waggoner to transport my baggage to Town, without the protection of such written licence.

And you having as I hope and believe, *forgot* to send me the passes I requested in my former letter; I am under the necessity of giving you this further trouble, to desire that you will be so good as to present my compliments to the President & Council, and acquaint them with the above circumstance; and, at the same time, my request, that they will be pleased to order a pass for myself and four servants, namely, Mathias Sandham my Butler, two Mulatto men, Jonathan & Luke, and one footman, the other Coachman and one Negro Woman Cook, called Fanny; and also a protection for one *baggage* Wagon and its *Driver*, to go to *Philad'a* and return hither; leaving a blank for the *Driver's* name.

I shall hold myself extremely obliged to the Government for their favour in the above request; as I shall in a particular manner to your self, for forwarding the same, as much possible by the Bearer whom I send on purpose; and of this I have not the least doubt, when you shall consider, that after a separation of near eight months, my passion to see and embrace my ffriends, family, & connections, must needs be very urgent & strong.

I am with much respect

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES HAMILTON.*

Directed,

For Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}, Secretary to President & Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

By Mathias Sandham.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 478.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, May 1, 1778.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the several States to empower the Executive authority of such States, from time to time to grant exemptions from duty in the Militia, to such persons as may from time to time be employed in manufacturing Military stores & other articles for the use of the United States.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Council to Col. John Proctor, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May, 2d, 1778.

Sir,

This morning I recd your letter of the 26th *April, by Mr Henry, confirming the distressed situation of the back Inhabitants, who are involved in a war with the Savages; also a request to Council to furnish you with a sum of money; altho you do not say the use you intend to make of it, yet I do suppose it is to pay off the Militia. There is not a sufficiency in the Treasury to enable me to send you any part of your demand; but being anxious to relieve you all in my power, have induced Mr Rittenhouse to go to York Town to endeavor to get some of Congress. I have therefore given Mr. Henry, who accompanied Mr R. there, an order for £3,500, which I hope may be sufficient to pay off the arrearages. The information you give respecting Cap. McKee, & the Serjeant, & twenty odd men, joining the Savages, is realy alarming. I am however not without hope, that Congress, who Council have written to on the subject, will take some spirited measures to chastise the insolence of the savages, as will make those People sorely repent their having joined them.

A Gentleman from France, went thro' this Borough for Congress, this day, with dispatches from our Agents, which contain a treaty between France and the United States,† the particulars we are not informed; things look well on our side. I send you the papers for your perusal.

I am, Sir,

Your very Humble Servt.

* See page 445.

† See Col Rec., Vol. XI., p. 487.

Council to Col. Arch'd Lochry, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, May 2d, 1778.

Sir,

I recd your Letter and a return of the Militia of your County, by Mr. George Henry, in which I am disappointed, as I fully expected a much greater number would have embodied.

I greatly lament the situation of the back inhabitants, to be at this time engaged in a war with savages, and wish it was in the power of Council to afford them immediate relief; but I am of opinion, nothing short of carrying the war into their Country will effectually answer the purpose. I have written a pressing Letter to Congress on the subject, and you may depend that Council will co-operate with them in executing in the most spirited manner, any plan that may be thought eligible.

The Lieutenants of the Counties have been empowered to purchase arms in each County, for the use of the Militia, and as you stand in great need of them, I am not a little surprised that you have not attended to that order & exerted yourself to procure them. Such of the inhabitants that are suspected of being unfriendly to our cause, & those that have not taken the oath of allegience to the states, & are possessed of arms, you are empowered by law of the 13 Jany last, to seize upon them for public use, and a spirited exertion on this occasion will answer a very good purpose by disarming the disaffected, & arming our Friends to oppose the savages.

The Lieutenants or sub Lieuts of the Counties of Bedford & Westmoreland, are by Law empowered to call out the militia for the defence of the Frontiers, if so required by the Commissioners appointed by Congress; you will, therefore, attend to the orders of these gentlemen, as I have no doubt they will receive directions from Congress for this purpose.

Thos Scott, Esq, member of Council for Westmoreland, left this some time since, & took with him Rifle guns for the use of your county, but as you don't mention the receipt of them, I presume they had not got to hand.

I am, Sir,
Your very Humble servt.

Indorsed,

To Colonel Archibald Lochry, Lieutenant of Westmoreland County.

Council to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 2nd, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive y^r^ Letters of the 24^th^ & 28^th^ of April, covering three acts of Congress, of the 22^d^, 23^d^ and 24^th^ ultimo, which have the attention of Council.

That of the 24^th^* respects the remains of the Crews of the gallies lately employed on the Delaware, now reduced to about 200 privates. These, as seamen, are desired to navigate the gallies in Chesapeak. They are but Landsmen, but having been employed for some time at the oar, are probably tolerable watermen. As their service on the Delaware is now at an end, at least whilst the Enemy possess Philadelphia, I have ordered them to be marched up to this place. They may, perhaps, arrive in 8 or 10 days. How far the service on Chesapeak may suit with their enlistment or inclination, & what prospect there may be of their usefulness in the business of Council, I shall be able to determine when they come here. Perhaps they might be as serviceable on the Schuylkill & Susquehanna, as elsewhere, & ready in those situations to resume their former station, in case the Enemy leave the City.

The recommendation of pardons, &c., lies for the meeting of legislature, fixed for the 13^th^ Instant.

Application was made by this state, early in the late winter, in behalf of the western settlers of Pennsilvania, then distressed by the inroads & murders of savages, set on by the Governor of Detroit. It was then understood that the Honorable Congress had taken the Case of these frontier people into their consideration, & employed Commiss^rs^ to enquire of & provide for their protection. Relying on the attention of Congress, I beg leave to forward to you, as inclosed, Copies of Letters just received from the Western Counties, displaying the repetition of these ravages of Indians, who lay still thro' part of the winter, till very lately; and General Roberdeau opens the Idea of a further & very dangerous correspondence between the Commandant at Detroit & disaffected persons among us, some of whom he says have suddenly disappeared, & expected to be joined by others, to associate with Indians & others sent by the Enemy to scalp the Inhabitants & break up the Settlements. Further evidence of such a design appears from the Letter of John Proctor, Esquire, of Westmoreland, in the going off of Alex^r^ M^c^Kee & the others from Fort Pitt. In their distress, the people very naturally apply to Council. Council recollect that the Commiss^rs^ of Congress, sent to the Ohio, are fully impowered to call out the Militia of Bedford & Westmoreland Co. Orders now go to the Lieutenants of Cumber-

* See page 442.

land & Northumberland to embody & furnish as many as the Exigency may require.

Allow me, Sir to remark, that whilst the Enemy are possessed of the City of Philadelphia & the navigation of the Delaware, it is of the first importance to prepare the western & northern Counties from depopulation and destruction. The wisdom of Congress will doubtless interpose in a suitable manner. Council would not anxiously ask for the intended plan, but to satisfy the people looking up to them for relief. I shall be glad to have the honour of a Letter from you on this subject, giving such information as may be proper. I only add, that the Large Levies of men & arms in the back parts, & the disarming of their militia last year at Camp, in New Jersey, has deprived the settlers of the means of defence to an alarming degree. This requires to be attended to.

The bearer hereof, brought the Letters from Westmoreland. He returns immediately, & will carry up any dispatches you may have for the General & Commissioners on the Ohio, or others.

P. S. I beg leave to mention that Mr. Rittenhouse accompanies George Henry on the errand of procuring a supply of money; various calls, particularly the pay of militia, having drained our Treasurer & made his application indispensible.

Indorsed,

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq^r, President of Congress, at York Town.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, May 2d, 1778.

Resolved,

That two regiments be raised in Virginia & Pennsylvania, to serve for one year, unless sooner discharged by Congress, for the protection of and operation on the Western frontier—twelve companies in Virginia and four in Pennsylvania—Each non-commissioned officer and soldier to receive twenty dollars bounty, & the same cloathing with the other continental soldiers. Each non-commissioned officer and soldier, who shall find his own blanket, musket or rifle, & accoutrements, shall have the same allowance as is given by Congress to the drafts from the militia, for filling up the continental regiments:

That General Hand be recalled from his command at Pittsburg, agreeably to his request:

That a proper officer be immediately sent to take the command on the Western frontier:

That a proper person be appointed to perform the duties of quar-

termaster, commissary and paymaster, to the militia of the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge, Bottetourt, Montgomerie, Washington & Greenbriar, in Virginia :

That the commissioners at Fort Pitt be authorised to appoint officers necessary for commanding the battalions above mentioned :

That General Washington be desired to appoint the officer to take the command at Fort Pitt, and that a copy of the commissioner's letter be sent to the General.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Col. Daniel Brodhead to ——— ———, 1778.

Camp, Valley Forge, May 2d, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Count of Mountfort, a Major, with the Rank of Colonel, in Gen'l Pilaskies Legion, does me the honor of being the bearer hereof.

I have but little personal acquaintance with the Count, but the high esteem in which he seems to stand with the first Gentlemen in the Army; his steady attachment to the cause of our Country, & his universal good Character as an officer & Gentleman, have inclined me to take the liberty of recommending him to your particular notice, and have not the least doubt but his Company will do Honor, & be very agreeable to every Gentleman with whom you shall be disposed to make him acquainted.

The Count, from his Merit & Address, was lately raised from the Rank of a Volunteer, Lieut. & Capt., to that above mentioned.

I have not the Honour to know the particular Business of this Gentleman with the Council, but be it what it may, I most sincerely wish to see him served, being well persuaded he cannot ask an unreasonable thing.

I have the Honour to be,
with great Regard & Esteem,
your most obedt H'ble Servt.

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Col. B. Flower to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 2 May, 1778.

Hon[d] Sir,

Inclosd is a resolve of the Hon[e] Congress of yesterday, "recommending to the several States to empower the Executive authority of such States, from time to time, to grant exemptions from duty in the militia, to such persons as may from time to time be employ'd in manufacturing of Mil[y] Stores and other Articles for the use of the United States."

Your Hon[r] may be assured that nothing but the Sufferings of my Department could have induced me to have troubled you again on this subject, having already had your reasons for refuseing to grant such exemptions, but the impossibility of procuring the Articles essentially necessary for the existance of our Army in the Field, without such indulgence, obligd me to make this further application, and should your Hon[r] think propper to comply you may be assured I will endeavour as much as possible to prevent abuses—every person engaged in contracts with me, or any other authorised in the Departmen twill have certificates for the same.

Col[l] Patton, the Bearer, hereof, is engaged in Contract with me for a large quantity of Shott and Shells, (part of which he has deliverd) but his Furnace being now out of Blast, in consequence of his principal men being taken out to Serve in the Militia, prevented his complying or fulfilling of his Contract; the articles of which our Army now suffer for, your Hon[r], therefore, will please to grant such exemptions as shall Enable him to put his Furnace in Blast, and continue til his Contract is finished.

I have the Honour to be
your Hon[rs] most obed[t] Hum. Ser[t].

BENJ. FLOWER, Col[l]
Com[ry] Gen[l] Mil. Stores.

To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq[r]., Pres[t] of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, Lancaster.

Col. Rich'd M'Calester to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

May 2d, 1778.

S[r],

Your Exelencies Orders of the 28th April I this Moment Rec[d], and sent Express orders to each Sub Lieut. in the County, in two Howers after Receiving those, to have them Complyed with, which hope will be done. This is the Second Iv[e] sent them on this occa-

sion, as yet have Rec[d] no Return. I have wrote in the most pressing Terms, & hope to be able to make the Return in time, according to order.

In the begining of those trubles this County was Exceeding Forward, the Gratest Part of the arms wass Colected two years Past, sent in the Militia & Flying Camp, few Returned. We have found from Expereance that armes is Very scarce in this County, however, hope to be able to account for what there may be Soon; I have Purchased a few good arms, which will be in the Return. I am Grately afraid Respecting the Militia Turning out, & should be Extreamly Glad to be instructed in which Might be the most probal or Efectuall means to Carry this Point, as to aranging them or teling them the Enemy is in the State, &c., and by all Probility there asistance is Grately wanting & would be of Infinite Service Even, that its likely by one good Efort the Matter might be setiled; seems ondly by a mear matter of Jest w[h] them, say they, we have this Storey too often, let the Standing army fight, we will stay at home & Rais bread.

I shall Do Every thing in my Power, which am afraid will not be much.

I am, S[r], with due respect,
Yr Exclencees Most ob[t] H[le] S[t].

R[d] M'CALESTER.

Directed,

His Exelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Supraim Ex[t] Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Rob't Levers to V. P. G. Bryan, 1778.

Easton, May 2d, 1778.

Sir,

Your Honours Favor of the 23d April* I received the 26th, and the next day waited on James Hamilton, Esquire, in Company with a Gentleman, Mr. Ball, Senior Surgeon of the Hospital at Bethlehem. Agreeable to the Instructions given me, and in the presence of Mr. Ball, I delivered to Mr. Hamilton the open Letter committed to me by Council, and acquainted that Gentleman, that, by authority vested in me by Council, I did declare him, in the name and in behalf of the Supreme Executive Council, discharged and liberated from his Parole, and given up to his own unrestrained disposal. I then gave into the hands of Mr. Hamilton his Parole,

* See page 435.

desiring that he would deliver to me the Counter Writing in his Possession. Mr. Hamilton seemed exceedingly pleased, and begged I would present his most respectful Compliments to Council, and assure them he was extremely obliged by receiving his discharge, at the same time declared that he never had any Counter writing in his Possession—That when Mr. Dunlap & Mr. Hall called on him, by order of Council, to take his Parole, he received no Counterpart or Copy in Return, which he had often regretted.

Enclosed I send a true Copy of the Leter from Council to Mr. Hamilton. With this Gentleman I left a Copy of the Laws, and as he was reserved as to the Nature of the Law in point, I was likewise silent. By his Conversation, I perceive he is fixed to go to Bush Hill, and I believe has by this time sent a Servant to prepare the way. He enquired of me how he could obtain a Pass; as then I had no Idea of his intention to go to Bush Hill, I offered to grant a Pass; but on explaining himself I withdrew the offer, being something confused at his design, having frequently heard it reported that Mr. Hamilton would take the Test. However, as Mr. Hamilton continued to explain his Intention, which was to send a Servant before him to fit up Bush Hill for his Reception, I gave him to understand, that as a Magistrate, I would grant his Servant a Pass to General Washington's Head Quarters, at Valley Forge, which he accepted.

The Parole of Lewis Gordon, Esquire, was not enclosed with the other Papers sent me by your Honor, but I have acquainted this Gentleman with my Commission, and he being in a poor State of Health, and seemingly desirous of a little delay, I have omitted formally liberating him from his Parole, untill I shall receive from Council the Paper signed by him, that I may see the Counter writing in his Hands. Mr. John Gordon is at present a few miles from Easton.

I have the Honor to subscribe myself,

Sir, your Honor's most obedient

Humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire.

P. S. Mr. Ball and myself parting at Northampton, he being on some necessary business, I shall take an opportunity to wait on him, and we will jointly make a Memorandum of the Interview with Mr. Hamilton.

Copy of a Letter from York Town, May 3d, 1778.

I have the pleasure of advising you that yesterday brought us dispatches from our agents in Europe, of a most important and favourable nature to these States. I will not trouble your Excellency with minute circumstances, But think it my duty to advise you that the King of France, by powers dated January 30th, to his Secretary of State, did, on February the 6th, by the said Secretary, enter into one treaty of perpetual peace and amity and trade with the United States: And on the same day, into another treaty of commerce with said States. For the present, I beg leave to refer you to the following extract of a letter from Doctor Franklin, and his colleagues, as sufficiently indicative of the spirit of said treaties. "Mr. Gerrard, "one of the Secretarys, came yesterday to inform us by order of "the King, that after long and full consideration of our affairs and "propositions in Council, it was decided, and his Majesty was de- "termined to acknowledge our independence, and make a treaty "with us of amity and commerce. That in this treaty no advan- "tage would be taken of our present Situation to obtain terms from "us, which otherwise would not be convenient for us to agree to, "His Majesty desiring that the treaty once made should be durable, "and our amity Subsist for ever, which could not be expected if "each nation did not find its interest in the continuance, as well as "in the commencement of it: It was therefore his intention that "the terms of the treaty should be such as we might be willing to "agree to, if our State had been long since established, and in the "fulness of Strength and power, and such as we shall approve of "when this time shall come. That his Majesty was fixed in his de- "termination not only to acknowledge, but to Support our indepen- "dence by every means in his power. That in doing this he might "probably be soon engaged in war, yet he Should not expect any "compensation from us on that account, nor pretend that he acted "wholly for our Sakes, since beside his real good will for us and our "cause, it was manifestly the interest of France that the power of "England should be diminished by our separation from it. The "only condition he should require and rely on would be this: That "we in no peace to be made with England should give up our In- "dependance, and return to the obedience of that Government."

Thus our Commissioners. The treaty is such as may be expected from such established principles, and we may be assured of as determined a Spirit in other Courts. It now only remains with ourselves to act with Spirit.

Indorsed,

1778, May 3d. Copy of a letter from Jonathan B. Smith.

V. P. Bryan to Lieut. John Carothers, 1778.

Lancaster, 3d May, 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 28th Ulto.* has been considered in Council. The ravages of the Enemy Indians give great uneasiness, & the rather as rifle guns are scarce. Congress are, from some strange fatality, under a necessity to ask from us some Musquetts; this enables us to lay hold of their rifles newly made here. Of these fifty more have been gotten. They were under some reserve for the regular forces destined to act against the Savages. However, they now go to you with fifty musquetts, depending that you will distribute these weapons to the best use. The request you made to the board of war for some rifles which lie at Carlisle, was supported by a Letter from hence. No direct answer was given; but the former parcel which you had from hence was granted. The board was also told that their grant of lead & powder was very inadequate. As the stores of the state have been long since drained by the demands of Congress, Council has no lead, very little gunpowder, & that at a distance, no rifles, nor flints. Congress must be urged again for ammunition & it shall be done immediately. The prices you have given for the 20 rifle Guns, purchased by you, is enormous, but £30 each is too extortionate to submit to. We have no such rates here.

There is a disposition in Council to satisfy the reasonable claims of the people who lately went out after the 31 absconded Tories, but the demand is very loose & general; nor can Col. Buchannan give it any exactness. It has been wished that the officers who led them had made out some account of the number, time & circumstances.

As to the other point, whether Council would allow those of the Militia who might turn out before their Classes, to be free of fine when their Class marched, it may be answered that this must depend on the words of the act, not on the will of Council. Indeed, in a case where some had failed joining their Classes, indulgence was recommended upon their serving afterwards & joining another Class; but this did not alter the law. The members of Council took on themselves the risque of answering for it. You must take care so to execute the Law that no real inconvenience may happen. The case of the deserter is now become difficult. He ought to be sent back to Camp, as I think. The Court Martial sufficient to sit & properly try the offence should be formed in the field by Militia on duty there. But the Militia now out will probably very soon be dismissed, without any to succeed them, in consequence of the Enemy army quitting this state. If he offer to pay his fine as a delinquent it may be as well to quit him.

General M^cIntosh, of Georgia, an officer of Character, & well acquainted with Indian war, is named to the command lately held

* See page 447.

by Genl. Hand. Part of his troops have passed this place upwards, & as soon as Genl. Clinton goes off further assistance will be sent from the main army. An effort against the Indian towns is designed, & Troops levying for this purpose.

There has been so little attention paid to the mode layed down for ascertaining the blankets of their own property taken out by the Militia, & their value, that it will be expected that an account of those losses be drawn up & certified by the field officers, or one of them, who were out with the sufferers. This, with proper attestation, may be layed before the Committee of Assembly for accounts, & proper allowance will doubtless be made.

I am, Sir,

Y^r^ very humble Serv^t^,

G. B,
Vice President.

Directed,

To John Carothers, Esquire.

T. Matlack to James Hamilton, 1778.

Lancaster, May 4, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed copy of an order of Council,* of this day, will show the determination respecting your request; the pass is now sent to Mr. Levers according to the order.

The law requires the inhabitants to take an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Commonwealth, and the Council conceive they cannot grant to any person a pass from one County to another until the same be complied with, much less can they think themselves justified in granting a pass for property to be taken within the lines of the enemy, except in the case described in the law for the further security of the government, which I hope & expect will never be yours.

It would have been indecent and very improper for me to have supposed that you, on your parole being delivered up, would have hesitated or delayed to take the oath required by law. No part of my conduct shall, with design, afford the least foundation for a charge against me of want of due respect to you.

I told you in my former letter that I should give attention to your request, and you will now see that your not having received the passes which you asked was not owing to my having "forgot"† to send them.

Directed,

To James Hamilton, Esq^r^.
(By Mat. Sandham.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 478.
† See J. H's letter, on page 456.

Form of Pass for James Hamilton, 1778.

The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—To All concerned:

The bearer, James Hamilton, Esq^r, is hereby permitted to pass into the city of Philadelphia, and to remain there not exceeding two weeks: it having been represented to this Council that his indisposition of body renders the advice and assistance of a Physician acquainted with his case, now in that city, absolutely necessary for the recovery of his health.

Given under the Less seal of the Commonwealth at Lancaster, this fourth day of May, A. D., 1778.

Col John Piper to President Wharton, 1778.

Bedford, May 4th, 1778.

Sir,

An affair of the most alarming nature (and as I believe altogether unprecedented) has happened lately in a Corner of this County, and w^ch I could not think myself justifiable in not communicating to the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of this State. 'Tis as follows: a Number of evil minded Persons, to the amount of thirty five, (I think) having actually associated together, marched away toward the Indian Country in order to join the Indians, and to conduct them into the Inhabitance, and there united, kill, burn and destroy Men, Women and Children.

They came up with a Body of Indians near or at the Kittanings, and in conferring with them, they, the Indians, suspecting some design in the white People, on w^ch one of their Chiefs shot one Weston, who was the Ring-leader of the Tories, and scalp'd him before the Rest, and immediately (as if Divine Providence ever attentive to Baffle and defeat the Schemes and Measures of wicked Men,) the rest fled and dispersed.

A very considerable Number of the well affected Inhabitants having, as soon as their combination and march was known, pursued them and met five of them, and yesterday brought them under a strong Guard to the County Gaol.

They confess their Crime and Intention of destroying both Men and Property; as these People thus in open rebellion are so numerous, there is great Reason to believe them as a part of a greater whole in some dangerous confederacy with the Common Enemy either at Phil^a or Detroit.

Therefore it was as well my own Opinion as that of a Number of the Principal Inhabitants met for that purpose, that the Honorable Council be immediately requested to order in their Wisdom such relief as may appear to be most expedient, either in removing those Prisoners to some Place of greater security, or else order Commissioners for their immediate and speedy Trials, w^ch^ last wou'd be the most grateful to the Country, who are extremely incensed against them, and think the prosecution wou'd be more easily effected where the Evidence is on the spot, and perhaps give an immediate Check to so openly avowed Rebellion.

In the County of Westmoreland, at a little Fort called Fort Wallace within some sixteen or twenty miles of Fort Ligoneir, there were nine Men killed and one man, their Capt^n^, wounded last week; the Party of Indians was very numerous, so that between Indians (and the still more savage) Tories these backward Counties are in real distress.

I am Sir,

with the greatest respects,

your most obed^t^

Hble Serv^t^,

JOHN PIPER.

Directed,

To The Honorable Thomas Wharton, Jun^r^, Esq^r^, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Brigadier General Lacey to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp near Neshamany Bridge, York Road, May 4th, 1778.

Sir,

My Camp was surrounded on the morning of the first Ins^t^ by Day Light, which lay near the Crooked Billet, with a body of the Enemy, who appeared on all quarters, my scouts had neglected the proceeding Night to Patrole the Roads as they were ordered, but lay in Camp till near day, tho their orders were to leave it by two o'Clock in the morning; one of the Parties, Commanded by a Lieutenant, met the Enemy near two miles from the Camp, but never gave us the alarm, he makes his excuse that he was so near them before he espyed them, that he thought himself in danger of being cut to peices by their Horse should he fire, but sends off a man to give notice that the Enemy were approaching, who did not come; on the disobedience & misconduct of this & the other officers of the scouts I have to lay my misfortunes.

The alarm was so sudden I had scarcely time to mount my Horse

before the Enemy was within musket shot of my Quarters. I observed that the Party in my Rear had got into Houses & behind Fences, their numbers appearing nearly equal to mine I did not think it advisable to attack them in that situation, especially as another Body appeared in my front to the east of the Billet, and not knowing what numbers I had to contend with, I thought it best to open my way under cover of a Wood to the left of my Camp toward Coll. Harts, for which my little party moved in Columns, the Baggage following in the Rear; I had not passed far before my Flanking Parties began to change shot with the Enemy, I kept moving on till I made the Wood, when a party of both foot & Horse came up the Byberry Road and attacked my right Flank, the party from the Billet fell upon my Rear, the Horse from the rear of my Camp came upon my left flank; a Body of Horse appearing in my front, we made a stand in this Woods and gave them some warm fires, which forced them to retire; their Horse suffered considerably, as they charged us and were severely repulsed; their strength gathering from all Quarters I thought it best to move on, which I did with the loss of the Baggage, the Horse giving way in the Front as we advanced. We continued skirmishing for upwards of two miles, when I made a turn to the left which intirely extricated myself from them, I came into the York Road near the Cross Roads, and moved slowly down towards the Billet, in hopes to take some advantage of them on that quarter where they least expected me, but I found they had retired toward the City; my People behaved well, my loss is upward of thirty Killed & Wounded, some were Butchered in a manner the most brutal savages could not equal, even while living some were thrown into Buckwheat straw, and the straw set on fire, the Clothes were burnt on others, and scarcely one without a dozen of Wounds with Bayonets & Cutlasses.*

The Enemies loss is not known, but is currently reported one field Officer is among the slain, we took three of their Horses, five are left dead on the field, their Riders either killed or wounded.

You will observe in the inclosed return that fifty eight is missing, the greatest part of which I believe has run home, the rest are taken Prisoners.

The times of the Militia Light Horse is all expired and have left me, they have been of infinite service to me, and for which I now feel the loss; twenty Horse is better than fifty Foot to make discovery & give intelligence.

I remain with respect
your Exc^{y} most Ob^{t} H'ble Serv^{t},
JOHN LACEY, Jr., B. G.

Directed.
On publick service.
His Excell^{y} Thomas Wharton, Esq^{r}, Lancaster.

* See several depositions on these facts, May 14th and 15th.

Return of the Pennsylvania Militia, Commanded by Brigadier General John Lacey, Jr.

Battallions.		Officers Present.										Non Com.		Rank and File.									
		Commissioned.						Staff.															
Where From.	Commanded By.	Collonels.	Lieutenant Collonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Adjutants.	Quarter-Masters.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Sarjeants.	Drums and Fifes.	Present fit for Duty.	Sick.	On Furlough.	Deserted.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Discharged.	Total.	Entered.	
Bucks County.	Capt. Pugh.				1	1				1		4		12	2	1				6		21	20	April.
Cumberl'd Cou'y.	Collonel Watt.	1			4	7	1	1	1			19		81	15		4	14	8	25		147	8	April.
Ditto.	Collonel Smith.	1	1		6	7	3	1	1	1		20	1	101	8	4	10	12		27	3	165	8	ditto.
		2	1		11	15	4	2	2	2		43	1	194	25	5	14	26	8	58	3	333		

Camp, near Neshamany Bridge, York Road, May 4th, 1778. W'm Means, B. M.

James Read to Secretary Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

The Bearer, Mons. Juluis Count Montfort, has been well recommended to me by an officer of good Credit in the fourth Regiment of this State in the Continental Army, and as he has occasion to wait on his Excellency the President, I think it my Duty to give him a few Lines to you.

He has a Plan, which he wishes to lay before Council, for regulating our Militia so as to make it very respectable; And as the Honourable Mr. Bryan understands the French Language, in which the Plan is drawn, I take the Freedom to beg you would introduce Count Montfort to that Gentleman.

I am, with much respect,

Sir,

your most humble Servt,

JAMES READ*

Reading, May 4, 1778.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Cornelius Sweers to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Lebanon, May 4th, 1778.

Sir,

In examining the Stores at Allen Town, I met with sundry Casks and Boxes said to contain a quantity of Sail Duck, under the care of Captain Joseph Stiles; As we are in great and immediate want of this article for the use of the Continent, I applied to Capt. Stiles for the same, who inform'd me that it was the property of this State and could not be delivered without an order from the Hon^e^ Council.

I shall be very happy if your Honor would be pleased to grant an order for the same, it being wanted for covers for ammunition Waggons, Oil Cloths for spreading Ammunition to air, and many other purposes, as ordered by his Excellency Gen. Washington. It shall either be replaced as soon as we can get a supply of the same sort from New England, paid for immediately at whatever price it

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 487.

cost, or carried to the Credit of this State, at the option of Council. I humbly request a compliance and a speedy answer.

Am with due respect
your Honor's most
Obed't Hum^e Serv^t,
CORNEL'S SWEERS.
Dep'y Com'y Gen. M. Stores.

Directed,

The Hon^e President of the Supreme Executive Council for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Brig. Gen. Ant'y Wayne to President Wharton, 1778.

Mount Joy, 4th May, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is the Return of the thirteen Reg'ts belonging to the State of Penns^a, the chief part of those Returned sick present, is for want of Clothing, being too naked to appear on the Parade, our officers in particular are in a most wretched condition.

I know it must be Distressing to your Excellency to hear so many Repetitions of our wants, but what ever pain it may give you I hourly experience more from viewing the [Distress of worthy fellows, who are Conscious of Meriting some attention, they unhappily think any change will be for the better, and too many have therefore Risqued Desertion, the Enclosed order has lately put some stop to it, & had we Clothing, I am Confident we should not have one man to Desert where we now have,* * * *

Indorsement,

1778, rec'd 6th May, from Brigadier General Wayne.

* Sig. and a portion of the letter cut off.

Peter De Haven to Executive Council, 1778.

To the Hon^ble^ the Executive Council of the Commonw^th^ of Pensylvania.

Gentlemen,

The Humble Petition of Peter De Haven Sheweth,

That your Petitioner was about two years ago appointed by the late Council of Safety, contracting superintendant of your gun factory, and his wages at this time not being any ways equal to the expenses he is obliged to be at, your petitioner would be much obliged to you if you in your wisdom should think proper to raise the same or allow him some part of said Expences and

your Petitioner will ever pray.

PETER DE HAVEN.

Hummelstown, May 4th, 1778.

RETURN OF THE TROOPS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Number of Reg'ts.	REGIMENTS. BY WHOM COMMANDED.	Officers Present fit for Duty. Field. Colonels.	Lieutenant Colonels	Majors.	Commis'd. Captains.	First Lieutenants.	Second Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff. Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Pay Master.	Quarter Master.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Non Commissioned Sergeant Majors.	Quarter Master Sergeants.	Drum Majors.	Fife Major.	Sergeants.	Drums & Fifs.
1	Colo. Chambers.			1	2	2	2	4		1		1	1				1	1	11	8
2	do Bickers.	1	1		2	1	5			1	1		1		1	1			11	11
3	do Craig.	1	1	1	5	5	2				1	1	1		1	1	1		19	10
4	Lt. Col. Butler.		1	1	3	4				1	1			1	1	1	1	1	16	9
5	Colo. Johnson.	1			4	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	8	11
6	Lt. Col. Harman.		1	1	4	1		3			1			1	1	1	1	1	16	7
7	Colo. Irwin.			1	5	5	4						1		1	1	1		10	8
8	do Broadhead.	1		1	1											1			12	5
9	do Ric[d] Butler.			1	5	3	4	1		1		1		1	1	1	1		14	11
10	do Nagle.	1	1		4	3	2			1			1			1	1	1	18	15
11	do Humpton.		1	1	2	3						1	1		1	1		1	7	4
12	do Cookes.		1		2	1	1				1		1	1		1			14	4
13	do Stewarts.	1	1	1	9	11		7	1			1	1	1	1	1			19	12
	Total.	6	8	9	48	39	21	15	2	6	5	5	9	6	9	12	8	6	175	115
	Sick present.				3		2	1							1		1		11	5
	Sick absent.		1		3	6		1											16	1
	On Furlough.	1	2		1	2	1	2	1		5								5	1
	Recruiting.				19	18	1								1				13	1
	Vacants.		2	3	8	10	60	51	9	4		3	4	7	1	3	1	4		
	On Comm'd.	3	1	1	15	18	3	1									1		23	4
	Prisoners of War.				4	3	1	1			1									
	Total.	4	6	4	53	57	68	57	10	5	5	3	4	7	3	3	3	3	68	12

NOW IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Rank & File.						Wanting to Compleate.			Alterations since last Return.								
													Joined.				
Present fit for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Total.	Sergts.	Drummers Fifers.	Rank and File.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted for last Month.	Sent to Invalids.	Promoted.	Sergts.	Drum and Fife.	Rank and File.	Prisoners of War.
172	27	23	95	9	326	10	11	474	8	1	12		2	1		24	1
75	12	3	23	1	114	21	5	526	1		1					10	
105	19	22	10	6	162												
98	17	15	34	6	170	7	8	550	3		4			2		38	6
150	27	34	54		265	16	4	455	3	1	10					13	
94	13	29	10	5	152	11	8	465									
100	15	18	27	4	164	16	8	476	5		6		1	1	2	13	
117	61	25	136	10	349	2	10	291	1	1	7	6				3	
117	14	25	24	7	187	15	5	453									
104	11	31	31	7	184	15	3	536	1	1	17	1	1		9	6	
51	10	27	35	6	129	15	9	511		1	1	3					
87	8	29	40	20	184												
233	3	9		18	278												
1483	237	290	520	99	2664	132	60	4736	22	5	58	10	4	4	11	107	7

The above is a Return of the Strength & State of the Respective Regiments belonging to the State of Penns'a, as they now stand.

Camp at Mount Joy, this 4th Day of May, 1778.

ANTH'Y WAYNE, B. G.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to President Wharton, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 5th May, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to orders of Council I here inclose you the Returns and Strength of the four Battalions of this County Militia,* I beg to be Excused for not having the Returns made to you sooner but it was not in my Power or it should be done, the fifth Class of the Militia that was doing Duty on the Frontiers has served their two months, and the People expects the Sixth Class to march there Imadietly, and has wrote me in case they have no men Stationed on the West Branch above Muncy, they will move their familys and leave it intirely, which will be a means of Breaking up that Settlement.

I would have Ordered out the Sixth Class to Relieve the fifth that was there but could get no meat to Buy, that they could subsist uppon nor indeed could not have furnished the fifth class that served there only for some Beef & pork Bought by Col. Hugh White for the Continental Stores, and when that was done there was no more to be had to Buy in this County, as for flower, there can be as much had as would do the Sixth Class for two months.

By some accounts lately from Bedford County the Frontiers there is very much alarmed at this present time, by a party of Indians that said was Discovered at the Kittaning, about thirty miles above fort Pitt, and in case this news proves true, the sixth Class of this County Militia must be ordered on the Frontiers at all Events, if we should bring Provisions up the River from Lancaster Coun^{y} to supply them only for one month at least, I have Ordered out part of Col. John Kellys Battalions to do Duty in Penns Vally for two months and they are found Provisions by a Contractor in Cumberland County.

I am
your Excelencys
most Obedient
and Very Humb^{e} Serv^{t}
SAM'L HUNTER, Lieu^{t}.

Directed,

To his Excellencys Tho^{s} Wharton, President.

* Not found with the letter.

Council to Col. M'Calester, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 5th, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday your letter of the 2d Inst was left at my House accompanied by four others which were all found on the Road, I believe not far from York Town, all unopened except that for me; as they are directed (all but one) to the Sub lieutenants of your County I presume they are from you, I shall therefore send them with *this* to Col. Kay to be forwarded, this accident may prove injurious unless you took the precaution to send Copies of your Letters to those Gentlemen, which I wish you upon all publick business to do. I hope soon to receive the return of your Battalions to enable Council to form some judgment of the number of Militia in your County, and notwithstanding the appearance of backwardness in them for some time past, yet I hope with the continuance of your exertions, & the necessity which must appear to themselves of making one manly effort with the Continental Troops, clear the Land of the Enemy that they will be induced to take the Field with alacrity. I hope however when they hear of the Treety that is made with France & that our independence is acknowleged by that Nation & will be followed by many other Powers in Europe, that then no hesitation will appear on their parts to assist in preserving that blessing. Hand bills were printed containing the head of the intelligencer rcd from France, one of which I send for your perusal, but the next Paper will, I expect, contain more substantial intelligence. I am pleased you have made a purchase of some arms & must request you to endeavor to add to the number.

I am

Sir, your very

Hum. Servt

Directed,

To Col. Richard M'Calester of York Coy.

Council to Capt. Joseph Stiles, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, May 5, 1778.

Sir,

Cornelius Sweer, Esq., D. C. G. M. Stores at Lebanon, requests Council would lend or sell him, for the publick use, a quantity of Sail Duck belonging to this State, now in your possession. Altho' it is not known how soon the State may want it, yet being desirous to serve the Publick, Council have consented to sell what the Commissary may have occasion for—reserving 10 or twelve pieces, which perhaps we may soon need—at the price of twenty shillings ℔ Y^d^ for the best, or N°1—and one shilling ℔ y^d^ less for each rising Number.

You will therefore please to deliver the Duck to that Gentleman or order—make out the account for the same & receive the Money, which I beg you to take the trouble to send by a good opportunity to David Rittenhouse, Esq., Treasurer to this state.

If you have not already rec^d^ directions from Council to employ a Number of women to make into shirts, all the Linen in your possession fitt for this purpose, I beg you to do it without delay, and forward them to this borough as soon as made up, as the soldiers are in great want of them.

I am, with respect, S^r^,
your very Hum. Ser^t^.

Directed,

To Captain Joseph Stiles, Northampton.

Council to General Washington, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, May 5, 1778.

Sir,

Altho' Your Excellency' letter of the 26th of April* has been repeatedly under consideration of this Council, and measures have been taken to obtain an account of the arms fit for service belonging to the state, we have not yet been able to ascertain it; but we have reason to fear that the number will be greatly short of what we could wish; perhaps three thousand are as many as we can expect to procure. The smallness of this number is owing to various causes; among which that of the Militia leaving their arms at Camp from

* Page 445.

time to time is a capital one; and perhaps the improper behaviour of the men in throwing them away, may be another. It is probable there may be a considerable number belonging to individuals; but I have little reason to hope that these can be had in the field otherwise than in the hands of their owners, many of whom, we hope, and expect, will be induced, upon a decisive occasion, to join your Excellency's army, whenever they shall be called upon, whether it may happen to be their tour of duty or not. Less than three weeks cannot be thought of for the purpose of collecting a considerable body of Militia in this state. The very great number of our people employed as tradesmen, &c., in the various branches of Continental business, and the exemptions earnestly solicited by Congress for them, Must necessarily weaken our Militia exceedingly; the more minutely this matter is enquired into, the more this will appear to be the case. The season of the year, and the difficulty of hiring labourers, renders the presence of the farmer at his own home indispensibly necessary.

Your Excellency may have observed, that the term of service for which the Pennsilvania Militia may be retained in service, is two months. This, as the Laws at present stand, cannot be lengthened without their Consent; a difficult business in its nature. I find by the experience of this last year, that for the ordinary service Militia can not be depended on. The first classes of several Counties were large & filled with the most reputable freeholders: but those lately drawn out, have shrunk to mere Companies. This proceeds from the abler people submitting to a fine, & the disuse of substitution. Should the calls for the Militia in the ordinary way continue, It is very clear, that Governor Livingston's proposal must be adopted here, Viz^{t}, to establish state forces for this service under state enlistments, in order that the husbandman may pursue his labour at home, & raise supplies for the army.

I beg leave to congratulate Y^{r} Excel^{y} on the arrival of M^{r} Deane, & the great tydings he has borne to Congress; & have the honour to be, with great respect, Sir,

Your most obed^{t}
& very hum^{e} Serv^{t}.

Indorsed.

To his Excellency, General Washington.

Order of Council to Supervisors of Roads, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 7, 1778.

Whereas Complaints are made to Council that the Roads & Highways in this State are ruinous, & in many parts almost impassable for Want of being repaired & amended as the Law requires, whereby Travellers are impeded in their Journies, private Business obstructed & the publick supplies for the Army delayed, & their Operations in Danger of being disappointed, to the great Scandal, Detriment & Danger of this Commonwealth, & the manifest Injury of the Common Cause of America:

These are therefore to require & command all Supervisors of the Roads & Highways within this State, without Fail or Loss of Time, to proceed to the Reparation & Amendment of the Roads, & to enjoin upon all Magistrates & others concerned, to exert themselves in making presentments of Defects & Nusances in the premises or to the Quarter Sessions of the peace of the respective Counties, or to prosecute & otherwise proceed against all deficient Township & Supervisors according to Law, that they may be punished in such Manner as their Neglect shall require.

By order of Council.*

Indorsed

To the Supervisors of the roads and highways.

Col. Ad'w Boyd to T. Matlack, 1778.

Sadsbury, May 7th, 1778.

Sir,

In Febu last I was favord with a Letter from you, desireing a return to be made to Council of the number of Arms in my possession, I then immediately comply'd with your orders, and in a letter adresd to you, I informd that the number of Guns was very inconsiderable, and yesterday I recievd the most pressing orders of the same nature, Signd by the Hono^e^ the Vice President. In obedience to his command I beg leave to inform you, that I have no more than Ten Muskets compleat in my possession, and they are not more than that number of private property in my District.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 481.

Last season the Militia took all That I cood possibly collect of public & private property, which was always detaind in Camp, when their Tour of Duty was over. They Tories in the lower end of this County are well supplyd with Arms, as I lately told you, and in learning the Military Exersise.

Yesterday I sent the return of this Batalion, which hope you have rec^{d}—I wod have sent it sooner, but oweing to the delay of the men I ordered to make me the return.

I am, Sir, with the utmost respect,

Your very Humb. Serv^{t}.

AND'W BOYD, Ltt.

Directed,

Secretary Timothy Matlack, Esqr., Lancaster.

Council to Maj. Gen. Greene, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, May 7, 1778.

Sir,

The great and repeated complaints which are made by the people, whose Waggons have been in the publick Service, compels us to mention this subject to you. It is said, that when the accounts of these people are settled, they receive only certificates, expressing the Sums due to them instead of their money; this has had a very mischievous effect, by rendering the Service disagreeable to the people, in consequence of which force becomes necessary to compel them into it, which not only encreases the dislike & sours the minds of the people, but is also attended with a very considerable expence, which is a dead loss to the publick.

The earnest desire we have to do every thing which may tend to bring forth the whole Strength of this State, in aid of the common cause, induces us to solicit your attention to these complaints, from a firm persuasion that you have undertaken the Quarter Master Department with a resolution of removing every just ground of complaint, as well as every false pretence which may have been used to countenance the disaffected in their unwillingness to serve the United States.

Major General Greene, at Head Quarters.

Return of the Pennsylvania Militia Commanded by Brigadier General John Lacey, Jun.

Battalions.		Officers Present.											Non Com.		Rank & File.							
		Commissioned.						Staff.														
Where From,	Commanded By,	Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Quarter Masters.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Serjeants.	Drums & Fifes.	Present fit for Duty.	Sick.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Deserted.	Total.	Entered.	Month.
Bucks County,	Capt. Pugh,				1						1		4		18	1		1	1	21	13	April.
Cumb'd County,	Coll. Watt,	1	1		4	8	1		1	1			18		89	11	5	1	4	110	8	ditto.
Ditto.	Coll. Smith,	1	1	1	6	5	3		1	1	1		21		87	9	6			102	8	ditto.
	Total.	2	2	1	11	13	4		2	2	2		43		194	21	11	2	5	233		

May 8th, 1778.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 8th May, 1778.

Sir,

Since my last of the 4th Inst., I have had the honor of presenting Your Excellency's favor of that date to Congress, which was then Committed, part to the Treasury & part to the Committee on Indian affairs.

This will be accompanied by several Copies of Pennsylvania Gazette, containing an Act of Congress of the 6th Inst., announcing such parts of the Treaty of Paris of the 6th Ffeb'ry, as Congress judge necessary for public information, & government in particular Cases. On Tuesday I shall have the honor of transmitting an Address to the people, now in press.

I am with very great regard,

Sir, your Excellency's Obedient

& humble Serv^{t}.

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.*

His Excellency Tho^{s}. Wharton, Esquire, President, Pennsylvania.

Arthur Buchanan to George Stewart, 1778.

Old Town, Juniata, May 9th, 1778.

Sir,

I this moment rec^{d} by Rob^{t} Moor Express, a Letter from Cap^{a} Bell, stationed at Bauld Eagle, which informs me that Simon Vaugh, one of his Company, was killed on the 8th Instant, at the house of Jones Davis, upon Bald Eagle Creek. Rob^{t} Moor being sent off Express to inform me of what had happened, who, as he came through Penns Valley, stoped at the house of Jacob Stanford to feed his horse, where he found said Stanford killed Likewise, & seeing no person about the house, he imediatly took horse & rode off. We are Likely to be in great Distress, numbers of the inhabitants have fled Down here, & more are on the way. I sent Six men as Spyes to the Kittaning, one of whome only returned, who says they were fired upon by 100 Indians, & he only escaped. Sir, please send by Express to Lieutenant Carothers for a supply of amunition & arms, rifles only will Do, to enable us to make a Stand against these Sa-

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 487.

vage enemies. All the arms & amunition I have sent up to the Guard, at Sinking Spring Valley & Bald Eagle.

I am, Sir, your H. S^t^.

ARTHUR BUCHANAN.

To George Stewart, Esqr.,
a Sub Lieutenant of Cumberland County.

Robert Levers to T. Matlack, Esq., 1778.

Easton, May 10th, 1778.

Sir,

On the Sixth Instant I received by M. Sandham, a Copy of an Order of Council, with a Pass for Mr. Hamilton, also two Packets; Willing to oblige, as I knew Mr. Hamilton's usual Terror, upon the cancerous appearance he is so subject to, I immediately went to him, He having signified to me by Letter he was anxious to know the contents of the Pass. He observed, the Time limited for his Continuance in Philadelphia was so short, that considering his Age and Infirmities, undertaking such a Journey, would be rather, he thought, prejudicial to his Health· I really felt concerned for him. He desired, when I wrote to Council, that I would mention, as the symptoms of his disorder were rather favorable, he woud decline the Journey at present; and if he found himself under a necessity of taking advice, he woud comply with the Requisites of Council, and send to me for the Pass. I beg you will please to give this information to Council, and be assured I remain,

Sir, your most obliged
Humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

On Public Service—To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Lt. Fred. Hagner to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Allentown, the 11th May, 1778.

May it please Your Excellency,

According to Your Excellency and Council last Request, dated the 28th April, I have diligently examined and inquired into, but have not been able untill This Day, to give a true and Exact Account what Arms, &c., are now in my possession, & how many shall & can be properly Repaired by the 20th of this month: Which is as follows:

In my possession in Store.

800 Muskets & Bayonets, Scabbords.
550 Bayonet Belts.
750 Cartouch Boxes.
45 Shott Pouches & 18 Powder Horns.
400 Knap & Havre Sacks, new.
75 Blanketts.
25 Tent Cloths.
140 Camp Kettles.

In John Tyler's possession, in good Repair.

31 Riffles.

Will be ready the 20th May.

150 Musketts & Bayonets, from J. Tyler.
150 ditto. ditto. E. Cowell.

This number of Arms, &c., may depended upon, all in good Repair, and shall endeavour, if possible, to exceed the above number, as both Mr. Tyler & Cowell have promised to deliver more muskets, as I have mentioned, because it is difficult to gett the Scabbords for the Bayonets finished. I have Three Saddlers now Employ'd and will not leave a Stone unturned, to serve my Country and Your Excellency & Council.

I am with the utmost esteem,
Your Excellency most obedient
and most Humble Serv^{t}.
FRIEDERICK HAGNER, Sub Lieut.

Directed.

To Thomas Wharton, junr., Esqr., President of the Executive Council, at Lancaster.

Arthur Buchanan to Lt. John Carothers, 1778.

Kishacoquillas, 11th May, 1778.

D^{r} Sir,

I have this Moment received Intelligence by Express from Major Miles, in Pen's Valley, that the Indians continue to murder Men, Women and Children, on our Frontiers; last Friday, Jacob Stanford, his Wife and Daughter, were inhumanly killed and scalped, and his Son, a lad of ten or eleven years of age, is yet missing. The Express informs me that the Savages ravidge all Parts of our Frontiers in a very public Manner. I need mention Nothing to you of the Tories, as they meet with too much Encouragement to cease from their barbarous Practices. I dont mean to blame you, but

rather myself and others, who do not put it out of their Power to injure us, as fast as we catch them; my Zeal for my Country's Interest would prompt me to this, which, if I can obtain, pray order me to draw my Sword. All I want is to have Justice done to all Men, to have Villains tried for their Offences; but it is well known that this is not the Case, for instance Shelly, and others I can tell you of when we meet. I shall insist on this no farther.

I expect that you will assist us with Arms and Amunition, as I now stand in Need of four hundred Weight of Powder and Lead, equivalent, and likewise with one hundred good Rifles, if possible. We are in a very distressed Situation at present, but I expect you will consider our Condition & do all in your Power to aid us. I have taken the Sentiments of my Battalion, and they are briefly these: If the Lieutenants of the County will send us the Assistance of a few Men with Arms and Ammunition, we will march immediately into the Indian Country and attack their Towns, which will be the most effectual Method of calling them from our Frontiers. We also think it very necessary that Commissaries be appointed to raise Provision, and Pack Horses provided to convey it to the Assistance of our little Camp. As the Safety of this State, from our savage Enemy, in a great Measure on our being able to stand our Ground, it is hoped we will meet with suitable Encouragement and all necessary Assistance.

The Express will assist in bringing over the Arms and Amunition, if they are ready. I hope you will reward him for his trouble.

I am, Sir, with all Respect,

your very Humb. Svt.

ARTHUR BUCHANAN.

Directed,

To John Carothers, Esqr., Lutanant for Cumbarland County.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, 11th May, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to Your Excellency on the 8th.

Your Excellency will receive with this, several Copies of an Address by Congress under the 9th Inst., to the Inhabitants of these United States, which Congress request may be dispersed as generally and as speedily as possible, and that the Clergy should be supplied with Copies; this may render it necessary to employ the press again

in each State. Your Excellency will judge, & order what shall appear necessary in this.

I have the honour to be, with great Esteem,

Sir, your Excellency's most obedient

Humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS.*

President of Congress.

Three Proclamations by Congress are also inclosed, dated 9 May.

His Excelleney Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of Pennsylvania.

PRES'T WHARTON TO MAJOR GEN. ARMSTRONG, 1778.

Lancaster, May 11th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Count Montfort has bestowed some pains in laying a plan to regulate & train the Militia of the State, so as to make them still more useful than they have been, which plan this Gentleman has communicated to me; at a time less embarrassing, on many accounts, than the present, some regulations might be proper, and new schemes adopted but such a transition as would take place in the scheme proposed, would I am perswaded be productive of the most destructive consequences to this State, & this I have hinted to the Count, being nevertheless obliged to him, or to any other Gentleman for proposals which may tend to our care and security. I have taken the liberty to introduce him to you that you may converse on the subject together, for as his sole view is for the publick good, he perhaps may throw out some hints which may be very useful for the officers of the militia to adopt, even under the present regulation.

I am with great respect

D^r Sir,

your very Hum. Servant.

Directed,

Major Gen. Armstrong.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 487.

Gen. Washington to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, May 11th, 1778.

Sir,

I was duly honored with your favour of the 5th instant.* It is matter of regret, that the want of arms and the other causes you assign, afford but an unpromising prospect, as to the number of militia which might be drawn out from the State, on any emergency.

The Quarter masters and commissary's departments are still far from being upon the footing we could wish, not having yet had time to recover from the disordered and defective State in which they have been, for a considerable time past. This circumstance and the imperfect succes which has heretofore attended the business of drafting and recruiting, in the different States, and consequently the slow manner in which the reinforcements for the Continental army come in, will of necessity obstruct and retard our operations for some time, particularly as the succours of militia, which may be reasonably expected, on occasions are not the most flattering. On this account we shall perhaps have no instant call, for a large number of militia—I am fully sensible of the disadvantages, that accrue from drawing the farmers and tradesmen, from their respective employments, and should by all means, wish to avoid it as far as the good of the service will possibly permit.

But at the same time, that I would not wish to have the Militia called into Service a moment sooner, than their presence in the field is essentially requisite; it is highly necessary that we should be in every respect prepared for events, and so order matters, that the whole force of the Militia might on any sudden exigency be immediately drawn forth in aid of the Continental troops, whether it were for the purposes of defence or offence. I therefore beg leave to recommend that some plan may be digested without delay, for holding the militia in constant readiness, to take the field when called upon, in the most expeditious manner, and at the shortest notice.

The situation however of this army is not such that we can dispense altogether with the assistance of the militia for ordinary service. I must still request the exertions of the State to keep up a body, between the Delaware and Schuylkill, for the protection of the country consisting of not less than 400 men; Those I shall aid with detachments of Continental troops.

Whatever temporary inconvenience may attend the disuse of substitution, I am persuaded it will be salutary, if persevered in. The use of it is certainly a very great impediment, to the growth of the of the Continental army, the filling which ought to be the first object of our attention. For the same reason that I dislike the practice of

* See page 276.

substitution, I should not wish to see the project of raising State Regiments, for a short term of Service adopted. This Service would be preferred to a more permanent one by a number of persons who would be willing to engage in the latter, if there was no alternative.

I have the honor to be

With very great respect,

Sir, your most obed^{t} Serv^{t},

G^{o} WASHINGTON.

Directed.

On public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Lt. Jno. Carothers to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Carlisle, May 12, 1778.

Sir,

This Moment Col. Stewart arived here with Col. Buchanans letter a copy of which is inclosed, Col. Stewart further informs me that from other accounts from the fronteers, there are more families that has shared the same fate with Mr. Stanfords—I with some Difficulty procured from the continental store 100 ℔ of powder, 150 ℔ of Lead & 150 flints, but could procure no rifles for want of an order from the board of war—I had wrote to the board of war some time ago requesting a Discretionary order to some person here for a supply of arms and amunition upon any sudden emergency but as yet has rec'd no answer, there is some rifles in the continental store but we could not procure any for want of said order, what Council can assist in this matter is best known to themselves; in the mean time we think it our Duty to exert ourselves to the utmost in procuring what rifles we can either by borrowing or buying or both, untill we can be assisted from the public Store, perhaps it may be necessary for Council to write to the board of war, as my application has not yet had success, we do not know the minute when it may be necessary for the whole over hills people to be in arms.

I am Sir, with respect,

your very Humble Servant

JNO. CAROTHERS, L. C. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

War Office, May 12th, 1778.

Sir,

The Board some time ago requested of the Hon'ble Council their Consent that the Galleymen formerly employed in the Delaware should if this State had no use for them be transferred to the U. States & ordered to do Duty on Board a Number of Galleys in the Chesapeak employed to protect the Transportation of Provisions. If the Council has determined the matter we should be much obliged by your Answer.

I have the Honour to be

your very obed^{t} Serv^{t},

RICHARD PETERS

By Order.

Directed,

On public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the S. E. Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Sec'y Matlack to Col. D. Brodhead, 1778.

Lancaster, May 12, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for the honour you do me by your letter, introducing Count Mountfort.* It will give me great pleasure to have an opportunity of expressing my respect for his honourable attachment to the American cause, as well as that which is due to his rank; but the situation of things here puts it out of my power to pay him that attention which I wish to do. The business he has in view does not admit of my assistance at present; but, as it is an object which shows his attention to the welfare of the state, it does him honor, and whatever may be the success of it must secure him the countenance of every friend to liberty.

Your friendship is strongly expressed in this instance, which I acknowledge with great pleasure, and am with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient

Humble servant,

T. MATLACK.

* See page 462.

Council to President of Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 12, 1778.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your Letters of the 8 & 11th Ins. The first cover'd the Pennsylvania Gazette of the 6th, with a resolve of Congress respecting the treaty with France, and their ratification of it, which must afford inexpressible pleasure to every well wisher of this insulted & injured country, and at the same time embarrass its cruel and vindictive enemies.

That of the 11th enclosed several copies of an address of Congress to the inhabitants of the United States, this Council will endeavor to have dispersed in the most expeditious and general manner, being fully persuaded that this excellent performance will produce the good effects intended by Congress, and afford great satisfaction to the friends of our righteous cause.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your obedient Hum. Servt.

Directed.

To Hon. Laurens.

Secretary Matlack to R. Peters, 1778.

May 13, 1778.

His Excellency, the President, being himself much indisposed,* commands me to inform you, in answer to yours of yesterday, That the marines belonging to the Gallies which were ordered up here, are not arrived, and that he cannot give any further answer on this subject until he is informed what disposition they are in with respect to the proposed service.†

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

To R. Peters, Esqr.

* He died on the 23d of this month, at Lancaster, and was buried next day, in the "Evangelical Trinity Church yard," with military honors. For an account of the procession and other arrangements see Colon. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 498–500. He was present in Council for the last time on the day following the date of this letter.

† See page 492.

John Beaton, &c., to Council, 1778.

To the Honourable, The Supreme Executive Council of The State of Pennsylvania.

The Subscriber having been appointed Paymaster to the Militia of the County of Chester, begs leave to represent to the Hon. Council That by acco^ts already in his hands, and by the the most Exact Calculation, He has been able to make of those not yet Produc'd to him, There is a Balance of Between Six and Seven Thousand Pounds still due To the Militia of said County. That his not being able to procure a Sufficiency of Money to Pay off the Several Classes at the expiration of their respective Times of Service, is attended with great Inconvenience To the officers & men Concern'd, as well as difficulty in settling and adjusting The accounts, as there are still arrears due to all the Classes, from the first onwards. And That, as he is anxious to settle his accounts as soon as Possible, He wou'd be Extremely desirous to procure a Sufficient Sum of money to Discharge all arrears which have been already but of too Long standing, as he apprehends further delay wou'd be productive of Disagreeable Consequences in Case the Services of the Militia should again be soon Wanted. As many of Them, Especially of the Latter Classes, have undergone the Hardships and Fatigue of severe duty at a very inclement Season, and as they have for a Considerable time Past Expected that the monies raised from the delinquents in the Militia Services in the County shou'd be appropriated to the Purpose of Paying them off, They have been very Uneasy & Clamorous Upon finding it otherwise disposed of. The subscriber therefore Thinks it a Duty he owes the Public to represent this Brief State of Circumstances to the Hon'ble Council. Hoping & not Doubting but that they in their wisdom will devise some speedy and Effectual Means for discharging the arrears due to those who have stepped forth in obedience to their orders, in Defence of their Country in the Hour of Danger. A measure in which the Honour and Safety of the State is so materially Concerned.

JNO. BEATON.

Directed,

To the Honourable, Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Archibald Lochry to President Wharton, 1778.

Westmoreland, May 13th, 1778.

Hon^rd Sir,

Agreeable to your Excellencies Instructions I do hereby send you a Just and True Return of the Publick Arms in our County, which I have in my care.

75 Stand I Purchased myself; 27 Stand I received of the Militia that went to the Jersey, from this County, in the Year 1777; 72 Stand I received by Col'l John Shields, and Col'l Hayes Informs me of 80 Stand being on the Way, not yet come to Hand, which is in all 254 Stand; but when we Reduce 12 Stand, that that we Lost by the Enemy, & 3 Carried away by Deserters, there Remains 239 Stand. There is a Considerable Number of Old English Muskets, which Gen'l S^t. Clair formerly had in his care, belonging to this State, and Distributed in this County; they are all Unfit for service, and hard to be Collected, as the Person that Possesseth them is under Obligation, by Bond, to Return them to Gen'l Sinkler. The Arms, or the most of them may be Repaired fit for Garrisons. My Notice is short, the Arms Private Property I cannot assert, tho' they are Exceeding Scarce, Yet, Notwithstanding I can Purchase some from the Poor, distressed by the Enemy, but not without Cash.

On the 28th Aprile the Indians came into the Settlement at and about Wallace's Fort, Attacted 20 of our men, which was Reconnoitering the Woods, and Killed 9 of our Men, & Wounded Capt. Hopkins Slightly, and we lost 9 Guns.

In short, I am sorry to Inform you that the Frontiers of this County is more Distressed by Reason of this Last Scrimmage than they ever were before, as by appearance there was a larger Body of the Enemy than ever before appeared at once, and with much more Vigour; the Great Road is now the Frontier, and being Disappointed in their Expectations of an Early Campaign into the Indian Country, I am sorry to Inform you that I doubt a General Evacuation of the Posts on the Frontiers (Fort Pitt only Excepted), on the first or next appearance, or Attact of such a Body of the Enemy. I am also to Inform you that fines Laid in this County on Delinquents) tho' strict measures are used) I have only Received £60, and all the Publick money I have ever Received I have paid for Guns, Substitutes, and other Publick Uses, as will appear ℔ acc^t, at Settlement, and in the Interim I beg leave to subscribe myself

your Excellencies humb^e serv^t,

A. LOCHRY.

N. B. I am at a great loss for want of the Acts of Assembly, the late Acts in particular.

A. L.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council, for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Lancaster. By Express on publick Business.

Jona. Dickinson, Sergeant to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Reading, 13 May, 1778.

Dear Sir,

The inclosed was written Yesterday. Should it be the first Intelligence, it will give you all great pleasure.*

I am sorry to find that the Prothonotary has not yet qualified here. He is Assemblyman, Counsellor & Prothonotary all together. I wish he could be persuaded that he will do his Country more Service by taking his Line decidedly, & acting in some one Character. I am sure Business suffers, & the Cause too, for Want of a Man of Character & Abilities to act in the Courts. Not one Lawyer here; & the People anxious to have Business done. Whitehead keeps the Minutes & does what he can; but, besides all other difficulties, he has no Authority to discharge the duties of the Office.

I am, Sir, with great Respect,
Your most obed^{t} &
Very hble. Serv^{t},
JONA. D. SERGEANT.

Presid^{t} Wharton.

Lewis Gronow to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

(Chester Co.) May the 13th, 1778.

Gent'n,

I received orders of Council Yesterday, dated the 28th of April, requiring me to make a return of all the Public Arms within my district, and report what Number of other Arms could be Obtained in case of Extreme Necessity. I have made Enquiry as far as the time would permit, & am of Opinion that at this time there is not above Fifty Arms fit for service; there is, perhaps, about half that Number that might be repaired in a short time; and as to other Arms, I have collected them some months ago, the amount to about twenty, Several of them are small, Light pieces, much out of repair, & unfit for Actual Service, except in cases of the last Necessity. I have not as yet been able to procure the Exact List of the Number of Men in the 5th Battalion, for want of the return of two Townships, but think there will be about Six Hundred. If you see cause

* Probably alluding to the treaty with France.

to send an Order to me to get the Arms repaired, I shall attend to it as far as in my power.

I am, Gent'n, your
Most Obedt, hum. servant,
LEWIS GRONOW.

Col. Robert Smith makes Return of One Hundred Public Arms fit for service in his District.

Directed,
The Hon. Executive Council, State of Pennsylvania. Fav'd by Major Beaton.

Thomas Hartley to Council, 1778.

May it please the Council,

Since the votes of the Honourable assembly and my receiving Money by your Directions, four of my Officers have enlisted about forty Six Men.

I have several other officers out on the Recruiting Service, from whom I have not yet received Returns.

The Money I received is already exhausted, & for the Furtherance of the Service we stand in need of a further Supply. The men I speak of have been all mustered, and very few of them have deserted; added to the above we have taken up a considerable Number of Deserters belonging to my own and other Pennsylvania Regements.

I must desire that the Council will be pleased to order between Six and ten thousand Dollars to be paid to Captain George Bush for the Recruiting Service of my Regement, which Sum I will be accountable for.

I have the Honour to be
with the greatest Respect,
your most obed't &
most humble Serv't,
THO^{s} HARTLEY.*

York Town, May the 13th, 1778.

The Honble the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.
By Cap^{t} Geo. Bush.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 488.

Dennis O'Neal to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

The traitor who is noticed in your Proclamation by the name of James Stevenson, late baker, should have been called James Stevens, late baker. I know the Man well, he was, I think, one of our Money Signers, If I mistake not was appointed by a supplementary Act to y^e^ 150,000 Loan Office Act,* to expedite as a Signer the Compleating of that Emission. As the Tory has property, he should have in a future day no hole to creep out at by saying that the name advertized was not his.

your humble Servent,

DENNIS O'NEAL.

N. B. It will be the more necessary to make the alteration, as there is one or more James Stevenson in Philad^a^.

* See your Law Book.

M^c^Callesters Town, April 14, 1778.

Directed,

His Excellency Tho^s^ Wharton, Jun^r^, Lancaster.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 14 May, 1778.

Sir,

General Wayne this day shewed me a letter from Lieut. Col. Bayard, in which he informed him that he had agreeable to order procured near three hundred Bayonets, which were fitted to muskets, and was just preparing to send them down, when they were stopped by the Executive Council, who alledged that they had positive orders from me to reserve all the arms belonging to the State for the Militia, who were to be called out soon. There must be some mistake in this, because I never gave any such order in positive terms, but yet I would wish to see every State have their arms collected and in readiness. If the muskets to which the Bayonets are fitted happen to belong particularly to the State, Mr. Henry can easily replace them with a like number of Continental, a great quantity of which he will have to repair. I have written to him to do so, should this be the case. I should therefore be exceedingly glad to have the

arms which were got ready by Col[t] Bayard sent down as soon as possible, as General Wayne's division really wants them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

your most ob[t] humble serv[t],

G[o] WASHINGTON.

Directed,

(On public service.)

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Presid[t] State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 14th May, 1778.

Sir,

I Received two Expresses last Monday, one from Bald Eagle Settlement, informing me that the Indians had killed one man there the 8th inst., the other from Penn's Valley, informing me that they had killed and scalped one Jacob Stanford, his Wife and two Childer, being all that was of the family—all done the same day. Imadiatly after the receiving this news, I ordered out the Seventh Class of Col[t] John Kellys Battalion to march into Penn's Valley, where the Sixth Class of that Battalion was before. I likewise give Orders for Col[t] Cookson Longs Sixth and Seventh Classes to be imbodied, and to scout along the frontiers untill such times as the Sixth & Seventh Classes of Col[t] Murrys Battalions & Col[t] Hostermans marches up towards the Great Island, to cover the frontiers there.

These last Classes would have marched before this time only for want of Provisions, as for meat there is Very little to be had in this County, and that Verry dear; Bacon sells at 4*s* 6*d* ℔ pound, and flower at three pound ten shillings ℔ Hundred w[t]. I have ordered some People that lives nigh the Great Island to preserve Shad and Barrel them up for the use of the Militia that will be stationed there this summer.

Colonel William Cook will undertake to provide Provisions for the Militia of this County, in case he was supplyed with Cash at this present time, as he would go to some other County to purchase some meat, for I am certain it will be Very much wanted, in case the Savages Commence a war with the frontiers, all must turn out to prevent if possible, such a Crual Enemy from makeing inroads into our part of the Country. We are scarce of Guns, not more than one half of the Militia is provided with Arms, and a number of them Very Ordinary; Our Powder is Exceeding Bad, and not fit for Rifles in any shape.

And as for flints we can get none to Buy; all this I think proper to acquaint Council with, as you may judge of our situation at present, when the Savages is Commiting Hostilitys.

I am, S^r^, with due Respect,

Your most Obedient Humb^e^ Serv^t^.

SAM'L HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun^r^., President of the Honorable the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Council to Lieutenants of County of Philad'a, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, May 14, 1778.

By the returns of Militia made by General Lacey, it does not appear that the first class of the Militia of the county of Philadelphia has ever joined him; this has occasioned uneasiness in Council, lest some neglect in complying with the orders for sending out the said class has happened, and therefore think it necessary to remind you of that order, in expectation that if it is not already complied with, no further time will be lost—beside the sending the first class into the field, it is recommended in the strongest terms to hold four classes ready for an emergency. As it is probable that Col^o^ Thompson may be on his way to Lancaster, this order is to be immediately attended to by the Sub Lieutenants of the County.

To the Lieutenant & Sub Lieutenants
of the county of Philadelphia.

Deposition of Col. Fred'k Watts and Sam'l Henry, 1778.

Bucks, ss.

Personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Bucks, Coll. *Frederick Watts* and *Saml. Henry*, and being quallified as the law directs, deposeth & sayeth, that on the first day of May Instant, a part of Gen^l^ Laceys Brigade was attacked by a number of the Brittish Army, both Horse & Foot; the dispute was sharp, but their numbers being greatly superior obliged us to retreat. Upon our return the same day to the place of action, we found the bodies of the dead usid in a most inhuman & barbarous manner, the field in which some of the men fell there was Buck Wheat Straw, which appeared to us they had taken & set fire to, and threw the men into, whether quite dead or not we cannot

tell, but when found burnt to that degree that some of them could not be known. We viewed the Corps of most of the dead, & saw only two, as we remember, that had escaped the most cruel Barbarity that had ever been exercised by any civilised Nation; nay, Savage barbarity in its utmost exertion of cruelty could but equal it.

FR'K WATTS,
SAM'L HENRY.

Sworn before me, this 14th day of May, 1778.
AND'W LONG.

DEPOSITION OF THOS. CRAVEN, 1778.

Bucks, ss.

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Bucks, in the State of Pennsyl[a], *Thomas Cravan*, Inhabitant of the township of Warminster, Bucks County, deposeth & sayeth, that on the first day of May, after the Skirmish between the Brittish and Gen[l] Laceys People, near the Billet, he was called on by one of the Brittish Light Horse to carry some milch, &c., to one of their Wounded Officers; when he came into the Field, he was asked by a Trooper if he did not see some fires round the field, to which he said he did; the Trooper said they were men, & that their own Amunition set them on fire; after the Brittish left the Ground he went again into the field, where he saw four or five men burnt to a shocking degree.

THOS. CRAVEN.

Sworn before me, this 15th day of May, 1778.
AND'W LONG.

DEPOSITION OF WM. STAYNER, 1778.

Bucks, ss.

Personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Bucks, *Wm. Stayner*, of the City of Philad[a], and being quallified as the law directs, deposeth & sayeth, that several of the Brittish Light Infantry informed him, this Deponant, that in the Engagement with Gen[l] Lacey on the first of May inst., they Bayoneted some of Gen[l] Laceys men, after they had surrendered

* See Gen. Lacey's account of this action, on page 470.

themselves Prisoners, others they threw into heaps of Buckwheat Straw, while alive, and burnt them to death.

WM. STAYNER.

Sworn before me, this 14th day of May, 1778.

ANDREW LONG.

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL ERWIN, 1778.

Bucks Co'y, ss.

The Examination of *Saml. Erwin*, upon Oath before me, Andrew Long, Esqr., one of the Justices of said Co'y, That the said Deponant sayeth, that on the first day of May, 1778. after the battle between the Militia, under the Command of Gen[l] Lacey, and the English, he the Deponant saw a smoak in one of his Fields, and after the Enemy had retreated went out to see what was the occasion thereof; was much surprised to find one of the Militia men lying dead, his Clothes burning & near consumed, which had burnt the Body black; he thinks the man was set on fire before he was dead, from this circumstance that his arms were standing nearly erect; he further sayeth, he saw three other Bodies in Tho[s]. Cravans Field burnt in an inhuman manner, & further saith not.

SAM'L ERWIN.

Sworn before me, May 15th, 1778.

AND'W LONG.

COUNCIL TO CHAS. CALDWELL, 1778.

Lancaster, May 15, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have paid to the order of Michael Bowyer the sum of two hundred dollars, the reward offered by Proclamation, for apprehending you for trial. I am ordered by Council to desire that you will repay that Sum into the Hands of the State Treasurer, and lay his recep't for the money before the Council.

I am your humble Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To Mr. Charles Caldwell, Chester C[o].

Joseph Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1778.

Bordentown, 15th May, 1778.

Sir,

I acknowledge the Rec[t] of the Orders of the Honb[l] Council, from the Vice President, respecting the armes, & giving notice to the Militia to hold themselves in readiness, &c., in consequence of which I have done every thing in my power towards Complying therewith. I Expect my Sub Lieuts. have done the necessary on their part, as I have done in the Battalion Immediately under my Care, Except that of procuring an exact State of the Armes, which the Enemy's late Visit among us have rendered Impossible. I can, perhaps, muster 50 or 60 in this Battalion, chief of which was sent from Bristol into Jersey for Safety; the remainder are in the hands of the few Militia for their own protection against the Tories.

I hope my Sub L[ts] will furnish a more Satisfactory account of the arms within their respective Battalions as well as those now Imploy'd at Camp. The Enemy having lately Burnt two Valuable Dwelling Houses with all my Out Houses of Every kind & sort, & a great deal of Furniture, Utensils, Corn, Hay, &c., & Intirely Dislodging my Family, is the Only apoligy I can offer your Excellency for my Impunctuality. Notwithstanding, I can say with Sincerity I had rather loose ten such Estates than be suspected to be unfriendly to my Country. The Only pain I have in this matter is, this Injury has most Certainly been procur'd to be done me by the malise of my neighbour.

I have Order'd the Sub L[ts] to pay all the moneys in their hands Immediately into the Treasury, which I hope will be something Considerable.

As soon as I can Transmit to your Excellency a more particular State of the Armes it shall be most Certainly done.

I have the Hon[r]
to be your Excellency's
most Respectfull & Obedient
Hum[e] Serv[t],

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

To His Excellency Governor Wharton at Lancaster.

John Chambers to G. Bryan, 1778.

Allen Town, May 15th, 1778.

Sir,

I received Your's of the 28th Ulto., requesting me to make a return to Council of all public arms within my District. In obedience, therefore, I have made the strictest enquiry therein, and find the number of public arms within my District to be about fourtien, and that I could upon an emergiency muster about one hundred & fourteen arms fit for service.

I have given the militia notice to hold themselves in readiness according to your request.

If any former Orders were sent to me of this kind I never received them, as I am always ready & willing to obey any Commands in the service of my Country and for the good of the Common well.

I remain with respect, Sir,

Your most Obedt Servt,

JOHN CHAMBERS.

Directed.

To His Excellency George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Hugh Davison to Council, 1778.

To the hon'ble, the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Hon'ble Gentlemen,

You were pleased to appoint me to act as a sub Lieutenant of Bedford County, which office I undertook & endeavoured to discharge with Faithfulness & Dilligence, according to my knowledge & ability. But notwithstanding my willingness to serve the County & Public in any Capacity wherein I could have the Prospect of doing good, yet I am oblidged to consider this office as attended with such circumstances with Respect to me, as induces me to beg leave to resign, and that you would appoint some proper Person to the Place, who may perhaps be more successful in it—I find that I cannot attend to the Business of it, without great injury to my private Business, and gaining the ill will of Numbers round me, and especially that I have not a Prospect of doing that good that may overbalance or equal the Trouble & expence that attends it either to myself or the Public. I

cannot but suggest that our Board has been too weak to have influence among the People in the peculiar Circumstances of this County, this may be owing to the appointment of some Persons to it who were utterly unacquainted with public Business, little known in the County, and not of sufficient public Reputation & Influence to stand against that Resentment of the People raised even by the due Exercise of their office, (for I apprehend that officers ought to have personal influence as well as legal Power or else Government will be weak)—I am prone to think that one occasion of this may have arisen from hence, that the Gentlemen in & near Bedford, who are confessedly best acquainted with public Business & capable of managing the affairs of the County, have on account of their former opposition to the Constitution of the State, & perhaps on account of some wrong Representations concerning them, been kept out of Places of Trust, even when our situation required all the assistance they could give. I think it not strange that it should be so, as I understand they have been represented as unfriendly to the cause of Liberty & Enemies to the State. But as I am fully persuaded that such Representations are false & malicious, & that however they did at first oppose the Constitution, & still may desire amendments to be made in it, in a proper way, they are, not only from the urgent necessity of our circumstances, but from Inclination, disposed to avoid any opposition & support and carry on the legal authority in the County, I would therefore pray that for the good of the County, the strengthening of Government in it, and the sake of Harmony in this Part of the Commonwealth, it may please you to disallow of any Representations or objections against their acting in any Places to which they may be thought fit to be appointed, resting assured that such Representations are not only a great injury to them, but to the County, which at this Time, so much needs their help.

The above is submitted to the attention of the honorable Council by their willing & chearful Servant & subject.

HUGH DAVISON.

Little Aughwick, May 15th, 1778.

Col. John Piper to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Bedford, May 15th, 1778.

Sir,

The orders of Council requireing an Exact return of the arms Belonging to this State are in our Possession, which orders I would gladly comply with, But the distressing Situation of our County att present renders it next to impossable to assertain an Exact List of all the arms in Possession of the inhabitants of this County, But as

I am Enformed there are two Hundred Rifles, and one Hundred muskets, But as soon as I can obtain an Exact List of old arms shall make report to Council, the orders for warning four Classes to be in readyness upon the shortest notice which orders may be issued, But it is impossable in our Present Situation that s^{d} orders will be comply'd with as I have great reason to Believe that not less than one third the men in our County are actually fled, and the rest who remain are Constantly on their watch Tower, and in dayly expectation of an atack from indians or torys, who seems at Present verey numeras and dayly Encreasing. Thus Sir, I have given a short sketch of our situation in Hopes y^{r} Excellancy will Pardon my difficiancy that may arise from our destresed Situation.

I am Sir, with
greatest respect your
most obed^{t} Hu'ble Serv^{t}.
JOHN PIPER.

Directed,

On Publick Business.

The Honourable Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esq., President in Council, Lancaster.

Col. Jno. Proctor to Pres't Wharton, 1778.

Westmoreland County, May y^{e} 15th, 1778.

Honred Sir,

I reccaved youre letter by Mr. Hendry and 3500, Pounds and am Mutch oblidged to you for the favor, construction on the blunder I maid in my last, it was to Pay the Militia. I intend being with Council in a short time for a greater suploy of Cash, the Militia accoumpes here rises to upwards of Sevin thousand Pounds. I thank you for the good Nuse you gavue me of a traty between France and the United States, since my last we had a smart scrimage with the Indeans, we had nine men Kild and sum wounded, four of the enemy ware Kiled, our Peple ware oblidged to quit the field being over Powered by a superior number. My Compliments to Col. Matton, and to the Gentlemen of my acquentance in Council.

And am Sir,
youre sincere and
Humble Servant,
JOHN PROCTOR.

N. B. A number of torys had laid a plot to destroy the fort at Pitsburg but were detected and sum of the Principal men are tackin and in Confinement, whitch I hope will be Executed in a few dayes.

Directed

To His Exelency Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Pres't.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1778.

York Town, 15 May, 1778.

Sir,

Since my last of the 11th Inst, by Post, I have had the honor of presenting to Congress your Excellencey's favor of the 12th.

My present duty is to convey the Inclosed Act of Congress of this state for discharging from restraint the Honorable John Penn & Benja. Chew, Esquires, a copy of which I have transmitted to those Gentlemen.

I have the honor to be
with great Regard, Sir,
your Excellency's
Most obedient Servant.
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1778.

In Congress,
May 15, 1778.

Resolved,

That John Penn and Benjamin Chew, esquires, be conveyed without delay into the State of Pennsylvania, and there discharged from their parole; And that their excellencies the president of Penn-

sylvania and the Governor of New Jersey be severally furnished with a copy of this act.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress.

Friday, May 15th, 1778.

Resolved,

Unanimously, that all Military Officers commissioned by Congress, who now are or hereafter may be in the service of the United States and shall continue therein during the war and not hold any office of Profit under these States, or any of them, shall after the conclusion of the war be entitled to receive annually for the Term of Seven Years, if they live so long, one half of the present pay of such officers, provided that no General Officers of the Cavalry, Artillery or Infantry shall be entitled to receive more than the one half part of the pay of a Colonel of such Corps respectively, and provided that this resolution shall not extend to any officer in the Service of the united States, unless he shall have taken an oath of Allegiance to and shall actually reside within some one of the united States.

Resolved,

Unanimously, that every non commissioned military officer, and Soldier who hath inlisted or shall inlist into the Service of these States, for and during the war and shall continue therein to the end thereof shall be entitled to receive the further Reward of Eighty Dollars at the Expiration of the war.

Extract from the minutes.

GEO. BOND, for Cha. Thomson, Sec'y.

Remonstrance and Protest of the Prisoners in Mason's Lodge, 1777.*

To the President & Council of Pennsylvania.

The Remonstrance & Protest of the Subscribers Sheweth:

That your Resolve of this day was this Afternoon delivered to us, which is the more unexpected, as last Evening your Secretary informed us you had referred our business to Congress, to whom we were about further to apply.

In this resolve, contrary to the inherent Rights of mankind, you condemn us to Banishment unheard.

You determine matters concerning us, which we could have disproved, had our right to a Hearing been granted. The charge agst us of refusing "to promise to refrain from corresponding with the Enemy," insinuates that we have held such Correspondence, which we utterly & solemnly deny.

The Tests you proposed we were by no Law bound to subscribe, and notwithstanding our refusing them, we are still justly & lawfully entitled to all the Rights of Citizenship, of which you are attempting to deprive us.

We have never been suffered to come before you to evince our Innocence, & remove Suspicions which you have laboured to instil into the Minds of others, & at the same time know to be groundless, altho' Congress recommended it to you to give us a Hearing? and your President this Morning assured two of our Friends we should have it.

In Vindication of our Characters, we, who are of the People called Quakers, are free to declare that, altho' at the time many of our Forefathers were convinced of the Truth which we their descendants now profess, great Fluctuations & various changes & Turnings happen'd in Government, & they were greatly vilified & persecuted, for a firm & steady adherence to their peaceable & inoffensive Principles, yet they were preserved from any thing tending to promote Insurrections, Conspiracies, or the shedding of Blood. And during the Troubles which, by Permission of divine Providence, have latterly prevailed, we have steadily maintained our Religious Principles in these respects, and have not held any Correspondence with the contending Parties as is unjustly insinuated, but are withheld & restrained from being concerned in such matters, by that divine Principle of Grace & Truth, which we profess to be our Rule & Guide thro' Life: this is of more Force & Obligation than all the Tests & Declarations devised by men.

And we who are of the Church of England, are free to declare

* This paper was not discovered in time to be inserted in its proper place, in Vol. V., page 604, having been found among the documents of 1778.

to you, & to the World, that we never have at any time during the present Controversy, either directly or indirectly, "communicated any Intelligence whatever to the Commander of the "British Forces, or any other Person concerned in Public Affairs." And with the same Chearfulness we would have engaged not to hold any such Correspondence in future, had not the Requisition been coupled with ignominious & illegal Restrictions, subjecting us to become Prisoners within the Walls of our own Dwellings, & to surrender ourselves to the President & Council on demand: this the clear Consciousness of our Innocence absolutely forbade us to accede to.

Upon the whole, your Proceedings have been so arbitrary that Words are wanting to express our Sense of them, we do therefore, as the last Office we expect you will suffer us now to perform for the benefit of our Country, in behalf of ourselves, & those Freemen of Pennsilvania who still have any Regard for Liberty, solemnly remonstrate & protest against your whole conduct in this unreasonable Excess of Power exercised by you.

That the Evil & destructive Spirit of Pride, Ambition & arbitrary Power with which you have been actuated may cease & be no more, & that Peace on Earth, & Good will to men may happily take the place thereof, in your & all men's minds, is the sincere desire of your oppressed & injured Fellow-Citizens.

Mason's Lodge, Philad^{a}, Sept^{r} 9th, 1777.

Thos. Gilpin,	John Hunt,
Cha. Jervis,	Jams. Pemberton
Phineas Bond,	John Pemberton,
Thos. Affleck,	Tho. Wharton,
William Drewet Smith,	Edw'd Penington,
Thos. Pike,	Thos. Coombe,
Wm. Smith, Broker,	Henry Drinker,
Elijah Brown,	Thomas Fisher,
Charles Eddy,	Sam'l Pleasants,
Miers Fisher,	Samuel R. Fisher,
Isr. Pemberton,	Owen Jones, Jr.

Petition of Prisoners from Virginia, 1778.

To the President & Council of Pennsylvania.

We, the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the City of Philadelphia, having been *there* arrested and Banished to Winchester, in Virginia, by your authority, upon groundless suspicions, without any Offence being laid to our Charge, and being now brought to this place by your Messengers, after a Captivity of near eight months, think it

our Duty to apply to you to be reinstated in the full Enjoyment of that Liberty, of which we have been so long deprived.

We are your real Friends.

Miers Fisher,	Sam'l Pleasants,
Charles Eddy,	Cha. Jervis,
Isr. Pemberton,	Thomas Fisher,
Jams. Pemberton,	Thos. Affleck,
Edw'd Penington,	Elijah Brown,
John Pemberton,	Wm. Smith, Broker,
Tho. Wharton,	Owen Jones, Jr.,
Henry Drinker,	Samuel R. Fisher,

Lancaster, 4th mo., 26th, 1778.*

Indorsed.—Petition of the Quaker prisoners.

Robert Galbraith to Pres. Wharton, 1778.

May 16, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

The Courts at Bedford, Carlisle and York, are held with great regularity and propriety, and more business done in the sessions in a week, then used formerly to be done under the old Constitution. It is with pleasure that I acquaint you that a reconciliation is effected in Bedford County, between the Inhabitants, who for some time past were opposed to each other with regard to the Constitution and political sentiments. The matter originated between Mr. Smith and myself, and our endeavours with each Party had the desired effect. Mr. Woods, Mr. Smith & Mr. Espy, all applied at the Court for admission as attornies, and were by the Court admitted accordingly; previous to which they had taken the Oath of allegiance, and gave assurance of their sincere intentions of burying all past disputes in oblivion, and their hearty and sincere endeavours to assist government and its Laws and Officers to the utmost of their power. The Bench and Bar, as usual, Dined together two Days of the Court Week, and transacted business with great unanimity. I had several reasons for joining with them, (for I would inform, the application came from Mr. Smith to me) first, because a returning penitent ought to be admitted, and because they had it in their power to do a great deal of good or harm; they were old settlers, acquainted with business, still had the confidence of a number capable of giving uneasiness and trouble, notwithstanding we had brought them under the Law, "That forced prayers are not good," "is an old maxim, and convince a Man against his will and"

* This should have been inserted on page 445, *April* 26.

"he'l be of the same opinion still," is another I well remember. The application coming from them, has every mark of sincerity; their getting admitted And bearing allegience voluntarily, &c^{a}., is in my opinion, not only a sufficient acknowledgment to Bedford County, but the state in general. That by their assistance and advice their mouths are stopped from finding fault, the present officers eased of a great deal of the Burthen of publick business, & the Council be no more troubled with long Epistles, &c^{a}. For had not this been effected at last Court, there would 've been a number of Replevins and other actions commenced against the present officers (that whether well or ill founded) would 've done more harm than good, and to avoid this they say they want nothing but friendship, and that Justice may be done them. As I look upon myself bound to do every thing in my power for the good of the Cause in general, and Bedford County in particular, I would, at the request of Mr. Smith, (for I believe he is almost tired of writing to Council himself) mention the Situation of some Townships in Bedford County with regard to Magistrates. George Woods, Sam^{l} Davidson & George Funk, were elected for Bedford Town, and returned some time ago. Whether it would be proper to Commission Mr. Woods or not, as he is admitted an attorney at Law, I leave to the Council to determine; Mr. Davidson has been in the Commission before, and made a good Magistrate; George Funk is an honest Man, and may please the Germans; William Proctor, junior, was in Commission before, and made a good Magistrate; Wm. Tod came to Bedford County to live shortly before I removed to York County, and therefore cannot say much of him from my own knowledge, but as he has been elected with Mr. Proctor for Bedford Township, may do very well. I am uneasy concerning Cumberland Valley Township. Colonel Charles Cessna and Thomas Coulter are the two fittest Men in that Township for the Commission, and yet these two Men have not been upon good Terms these several years, and I imagine have had seperate Elections for that purpose. I should be glad the Council would reconcile matters that way. Mr. Coulter was in the Commission before, and made a good magistrate. The Council may receive information from Colonel Cessna, as I expect he is now in the assembly.

I would be glad Colonel Matlack would send me, by first safe opportunity, a Dozen Tavern Licences.

I am,

with the greatest respect,

Your Excelley's and the Councils

most obed^{t} humble Serv^{t},

ROBERT GALBRAITH.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jur., Esq^{r}, Lancaster.

Charles Pettit to President Wharton, 1778.

Camp, Valley Forge, 16 May, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 7th Instant came to my Hands in the absence of General Greene, who is on a tour to Fishkill. I am not insensible of the Justice of the Complaint you mention, respecting the payment of Waggon hire. The Applications I daily receive have fully convinced me that this Complaint is not only too well founded, but that it might be extended with equal Justice to many other Particulars. We have therefore, with unabated Attention, endeavored to remedy this Mischief, as well for the sake of the People, who are the immediate sufferers, as with a view to facilitate the Publick Service; and I have the satisfaction to inform you that our endeavours have been so far successful, that I have good Reason to believe the like Complaints will not arise in future. It was some time after we came into the Department that we obtained our first supply of Cash; we were therefore obliged, for a time, to encounter the Difficulties that Opposed us with the Shattered Remains of Credit. But we are now possessed of more ample Funds; sufficient, we hope, to pay all our Current Contracts, and to clear off the incumberances which have arisen since our Commencement, which was the 2d of March last. Many Debts, I know, are due on former Contracts, and we have warmly solicited Congress to have them discharged; but as we are not authorized to intermeddle with them, I cannot at present say when or how they will be settled. You may be assured however that nothing on our Part shall be Wanting to render the Public service as little inconvenient as possible to the Inhabitants of the Country.

The necessary Transportation of Stores and Forage is so great that we wish to improve the little water Carriage left in our Power to the best Advantage. For this End we have got a number of Boats now in use on Schuylkill, which answer the purpose very well when the River is pretty full, but it is now so low that the Navigation, at many passes, is much obstructed. Major Eyre has surveyed the River from Reading hither, and informs me that it may, without difficulty, be rendered navigable through the summer season for the Boats lately constructed, which are calculated to draw but little water in Proportion to the Burden they carry. This necessary work, though it would be beneficial to the United States for a short, perhaps a very short Time only, would produce lasting advantages to the Commerce of this State; I am therefore induced to hope the Government will improve so favourable an opportunity of serving the common cause, and at the same time so essentially promoting the interests of the State. I am farther induced to make this Application to you from the Impracticability of engaging a sufficient number of Hands through any other Channel to effect the Business with the necessary Expedition.

The River is now low, and if a number of the people of the Country bordering on the River, could be assembled at each of the passes nearest to their respective Habitations, the work might be completed in a very few Days. Major Eyre, who was with me yesterday, will Wait on you in a Day or two, and will explain the Matter to you more fully. As it will be of great Importance to the Publick to have this Business speedily effected, I must beg your early Attention to it, whether the Expence is eventually to be borne by this State in particular or by the United States, as in either case the Aid of the civil Government will be necessary. Major Eyre informs me the Expence will not probably exceed two thousand Pounds. The inclosed Paper cuntains a Copy of his return of the Depth of Water, and Remarks on the Different Passes that want Improvement.*

I have the Honour to be,
With great Respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient
& very humble Servant,

CHA. PETTIT,
A. Q. M. Gen'l.

Directed,

On publick service.

For His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq^r, Commander in Chief of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Names of the Fords on Schuylkill.

Miles from Reading.		Depth of Water.
	Kern's Ford,	9 Inches.
	Frederick Micket's Ford	12 Inches.
	Henry Bingman's Do.,	15 Inches.
	Stock Falls,	from 10 to 15, Rockey.
2	Callopey Stream,	18, Rockey.
	Lewis's Ferry,	12 to 15, Very Rockey.
	Cow and Calf,	12 Inches.
6	Lewis's falls,	5 to 7, Long and Rockey.
7	Postion, Murry Island,	10, 15 Inches.
	Leonard Lappoe's shoals,	8, 12.
8	Green tree ford,	5, 6.
9	Baichel Shoals,	8, 12.
11	Jacob Hewit's Ford,	8.
14	Campbell's Ford,	6, 7.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 490.

Miles from Reading.		Depth of Water.
15	David Davis's Ford,	7, 8.
17	White Horse ford, Gerlin's,	12.
	Abraham Wanggert's Ford,	15.
21	Jacob Floyd's Ford,	14.
23	Pott's grove ford,	12.
24	Mr. Baichell's,	6.
26	" " Potts's Dam,	5.
27	Bombohook Ford,	6.
29	John Heisler's Ford,	12.
30	Daniel Matt's shoals,	10.
31	Edw. Barker's Ford,	6, Small Rocks.
31½	Barker's shoals,	6, 7.
33	Geo. Ross's Fishdam,	12.
34½	Erasmus Laver's Shoals,	6, Rockey.
35–6	Frederick Sower's shoals,	6, Do.
35½	Lawrence Hipple's Ford,	6, 10.
37	Ming's Island,	8, 10, Level Bottom.
38	Adam Hallman's long shoals,	7, 12.
	Black rock,	4 to 20 feet.
40	John Buckwalter's Fishdam,	6, 15 Inches.
43	Gordon's Ford,	7, 15, French Creek.
44	Moore Hall,	9, 10 Inches.
45	Richardson's Ford,	7, 13, Rockey.
45½	Pennypacker's,	7, 12, Fishdam.
46½	Pawlings's ford,	7, 12. Stoney.
49	Sullivan's Bridge,	8, 12, Stoney.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 16th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

By letters from Cumberland County, it appears that several persons have been killed by the Indians very lately on the Bald Eagle creek, and in Penns Valley, and that the people on the frontiers are in great distress for want of arms and ammunition. John Carothers, Esq^{r}, Lieutenant of the County of Cumberland, has informed Council of an application made by him to your board for a supply of rifles and ammunition, to which, on the 12th instant he had not received an answer. The importance of this application induces the Council to request your attention to it, as it is not in the power of the State

to afford these people an immediate supply of rifles, which are the only arms upon which they can depend.

I am Gentlemen,
with much respect,
your very humble servant
G. B. Vice President.

Directed.—To Hon^ble^ Board of War, at York Town.

Col. James Potter to Maj. Gen. Armstrong, 1778.

Uper fort, penns Valley, May 17th, 1778.

D^r^ Sir,

Our Savige Enemys contenue to murder and Scalp and Captavet. I am informed by Col. Long that on the Eleventh Instant there was a few famleys Coming to Locomon, ascorted by a party under the Command of Col. Holsterman, the were attacked by 12 Indinnes who Killed six of them and six more was a missing about the same time, there was three men Killed at Loyalsack. He furder Informs that some time ago there was twenty persons Killed on the North Branch, and one Taken presner who has made his escape, and says, that the Indians are detarmined to Clear the two Branches of Susquhanah this moon. If there not somthing dun to put a stop to these murders soon, this Cuntrey will be entierly given up to the saviges. We have two forts in this Valley and are detarmined to stand as long as we are supported, But if we have not men sent to assist us, we are too few in number to make a stand; the Barer Major Myles is going to the Lieutenants of your County appleying for some men, if he Cannot obtain them, he will go to the Councal; if he has to go, I request the favour of you to write by him to the Councal, Requesting a suply of men for this pleace, the sercumstances of his Countrey is truely Lementable, I want for words to Describe it to you, the people are many of them Very pore, and Bread at such a high price, god Knows what the Consequances will be.

I am D^r^ Sir,
with Esteem
your most obedient
Humble Servant
JAS. POTTER.

P. S. I would be obliged to you if you would write me your sentiments in Regard of the times.

Directed,

To The Honorble Major General Armstrong, Carlisle, by Major Myles.

Col. James Potter to Lt. Col. Stewart, 1778.

Uper fort penns Valley, May 17th, 1778.

Dr Sir,

The Bearer Major Myles gos to you to appley for men to Releve Capt Bell, I need not inform you that Keeping the strengths in the frunteer parts is the second best menans under providance of securing the Interiour parts of the Countrey, and it has been well Known in the other warr that when those who were the frunteers, give way, the more interer parts Ren with them. I Request the favour of you to send the Relefe in time so as we may not be left without men, there is no way of stopping the seveges but by Carring war into ther Countrey.

I am Dr Sir, your most
Hon'ble Servant
JAS. POTTER.

Directed,
To Lieutn Col. George Stewart, Tuskorora.
favour of
Major Myles.

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1778.

Sir,

As soon as the Board recd your Excellencys Letter by Capt Blewer, we gave notice to the Officers that they were to be discharged except 15 or 20. They thought it hard, and sent us the inclosed Petition, and drew up a Remonstrance to your Excellency and Council, and have deputed the Commodore, Capt Houston, and Capt Brown, to wait on you. The men were uneasy on being sent up, and a great many has run since they had notice. The Stewards, Gunners, & Boatswains we have discharged. The rest of the men sets off this Day. We sent off Mr. Thompsons Letter for Waggons the Day we recd it, but never received a Waggon till yesterday.

The Galleys are all sunk, but can be raised very easyly. The Brig & Shallops are also easily got up, and the Enemy has done no damage to any one Vessel belonging to the State. The Stores are all moved off; some Six miles, some Eight miles, &c., and some at Pitts Town. The situation of the Vessels Capt Houston can inform you particularly.

I am
your Excellencys
most Hble Servt,
Wm BRADFORD.

Trenton, May 18, 1778.

Council to Assembly, 1778.

Lancaster, May 18th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Council think it their duty to lay before you some matters which seem to be deserving of Legislative attention.

The Constitution directs that Justices of the peace be elected by the freeholders, unless any district incline to change the mode. No standing law for regulating these Elections is provided, & altho' it would seem that by the 20th Article of cap 2, the Council might supply every vacancy happening by death, resignation, or *otherwise* in the Justices, as in other cases, yet is the spirit of the 30th Article hereby infringed.

The Waggon Laws, as is common with new regulations, upon Trial, are found in some respects deficient. On this subject Council beg leave to refer to Mr. Young, Waggon-master of the State. The arrearages due by Genl Mifflin, late Qr Mr General, having long been like a drag on the service, has been the subject of our remonstrances to Congress, to General Mifflin & his deputy here, & lately to Genl Green. Without removing this difficulty, this service will be ill performed.

Perhaps Assembly will be of opinion that by the 9th Article, Capt. 5th, of the Constitution, Negroes & Mulattoes, as other men, are triable only by a Jury of the Country. It has been enquired lately of the secretary if a Commission for Trial of these people could issue. The former mode required attendance needless in Courts; the fees, sometimes payable by innocent masters, were double the fees in the Quarter Sessions; and the mode was reprobated as contrary to the common Law, & as thereby of ill example. It may be observed that in case these people be referred for Trial to the Courts of Oyer & Terminer, & Quarter Sessions, the Court or Jury should be enabled to value Criminal Slaves condemned capitally, in order to indemnify their Owners. It might also deserve consideration whether the master ought in any case to pay Costs of prosecution, because experience prooves that Negroe Servants are with difficulty brought to Justice because of the expense hereby brought upon their Owners.

The Admiralty Jurisdiction is not ascertained, so as to admit of the appointment of a Judge of Admiralty. Nor is the duty of a port officer set forth. These, it is hoped, will become necessary before long. A Court of Errors, & for Appeals should be erected.

It seems expedient that provision be made for the great expence of the Attorney General in attending the Goal deliveries of capital offenders, & the prosecutions in the sessions of the peace. It may be remarked, that as very little Common pleas business is done in any, none in the Courts of most advantage in peaceable times to the

Lawyers, assistance of this nature is more necessary at present. Council fear embarrasment on this subject should it be deferred.

A resolve of Congress, dated Ap^{l} 23^{d}, 1778, recommending an offer of pardon, under proper restrictions to such persons as may have joined the Enemy, provided they surrender themselves before the 30th day of June next, another of May 1st, recommending the Exemption from Militia duty of Manufacturers of military stores; & third, dated May 8th, concerning the Measures taken to defend the Western Counties, are hereby laid before the House.

James Young to Hon. George Bryan, 1778.

Sir,

I beg leave to inclose you a copy of a letter I have just now received from M^{r} Pettit, Assistant Quarter Master General, that you may judge of the great importance of getting out the Waggons in this State, Also a circular letter which I send to the Waggon Master of Chester County; after you have perused it I beg you will be kind enough to seal & give to the express the bearer hereof, to proceed with it; you will there see my reasons for the immediate impressing the Waggons, if the Hon^{ble} Council are of opinion I have gone too far I beg you will inform me, for the Law impowers the Commander in Chief to Cause impressing Waggons, I make no doubt you will urge M^{r} Bayley, the Waggon Master of Lancaster, to get his Quota out, notwithstanding the many inconveniencys he meets with, as a Grand Push is now absolutely necessery, hoping you will excuse me for these remarks,

I am

Sir, with due respect,

your most Obed^{t} & very humble Serv^{t},

JA^{s} YOUNG, W. M. G. S. P.

Reading, 18th May, 1778.

Directed,

The Honerable George Bryan Esq^{r}.

Comm'rs of Berks Co. to Secretary T. Matlack, 1778.

Reading, May 18th, 1778.

Sir,

Your (Circular) Letter of the 7th Instant, by order of Council, came to hand last Saturday, on receipt of which we have this Day convened together, and in answer thereto inform you that a Tax of five Shillings in the pound, granted by Assembly last Winter, is already Assessed and laid, and precepts issued out for Collecting the whole thereof against the first day of July next, amounting to upwards of seven thousand pounds.

For the want of the Laws being regularly sent to us, which we request may be, and the unwillingness of persons to act in their respective Offices, has caused us not to be so forward as we willingly wish'd to be. We were under the necessity of levying the Fines on several Collectors who refused to Act, Which Fines by the said Act, in our Opinion, are too trivial; But we observe in the last Act we find them encreased, which we look on to be absolutely necessary in order to force them to their duty. As to the last Act for raising the Sum of £16,544. 14. 2. the quota for this County is just laid before us by Henry Christ, Esqr. As the mode for levying the same is quite new, we are somewhat at a loss how to proceed, still are determined to enforce the same according to the best of our Judgments and Abilities, as we have the public Cause of America much at Heart.

At present we cannot observe wherein the interposition of Legislature is requisite, if we may hereafter, shall not be negligent in giving Council Intelligence thereof.

We are with great regard,

Sir,

your most obedt hble Servants,

CHRISTIAN LANNER.?
JOHN KERLIN.
PETRO FIDLER. ?

Directed,

(On publick Service.)
To Timothy Matlack, Esq., at Lancaster.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND JOHN ADAMS TO MTTS, 1778.

Paris, May 18th, 1778.

Gentlemen:

Certain intelligence having been receiv'd that Eleven British Ships of War, (Viz., one of 90 Guns, nine of 74, and one of 64 Guns) are in the Road of S^t^ Hellens, near Portsmouth, bound for North America, & the United States being in alliance with France, You are requested as speedily as possible to Convey this information to the Commanders of any French Fleet or Ships of War in America, by sending them this Letter, and also to Publish the Contents of it in all the Continental News Papers.

We have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Hum^ble^ Serv^ts^,

B. FRANKLIN.

JOHN ADAMS.

A true Copy.

Attest—John Avery, D'y Sec'y for the State of Massachusetts Bay.

COL. JOSEPH POTTER TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, 1778.

Camp, near Cross Roads, May 18th, 1778.

Sir,

On my coming to this Country, I was surprised to find the number of Militia so small as it is; so small that I can do little with them. We have taken up a number of Market People, and when it appears they are not able to pay Fines, we whip them and send them off. I have no Horsemen, and without them there is no safety for the Troops. I must employ four or five. I would request the favour of Council to allow of a Troop being raised, was it not my opinion that the Enemy are about to leave us; All accounts agree that they are about to depart. I have sent you inclosed, the Copy of five depositions,* which will show you the cruelty and barbarity of those merciful & humane Brittons.

I am, Sir, Your Excell'ys Most Obed^t^ Humble Serv^t^,

JA^s^ POTTER.

* Depositions not found—unless those on p. 500 &c. are a part of them.

Council to Colonel Jacob Morgan, 1778.

Lancaster, 18th May, 1778.

Sir,

Council having directed some Arms to be sent from Northampton to your Care, It is necessary that the intent thereof be explained.

It was to furnish the Lieut of Northumberland, Samuel Hunter, Esquire, with some Rifle Guns which lay in the hands of Mr Tyler. As these were only 31 in number, it was thought expedient, in order to make up a load, & at the same time place within your reach a further supply of Arms for the Militia, to direct, that by the same Waggon about 70 Musquetts should be also forwarded.

But as the danger of Indian incursions, & the infuriated state of Northumberland has induced Council to send 70 rifles more from hence, being all at present to be had, & to add some musquetts, as proper enough to defend houses & stockades, I hereby request you may send about 100 fire-arms (including the rifles) of such as you may receive from Mr Tyler, as set forth above, to the care of Col. Gibbon, at Harris's Ferry, for the use of the Northumberland Militia. Mr Gibbon will have instructions concerning them.

I am, Sir,

Indorsed

To Colo Jacob Morgan, Lieut of Berks County.

Council to Gen. Washington, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, May 18, 1778.

Sir,

Your Excellencys letter of the 14th instant* has been read in Council. The mistake respecting the Arms, which you mention, has probably been made by Lieut. Col[l] Bayard, in supposing the Bayonets to have been Continental property, when they really belong to this State; and as to Col[l] Bayard's having procured them to be made, we can only say that we are not informed of any thing of this kind. It is said that he has exerted himself in pressing the workmen to forward the Belts, Scabbords, &c., which does him credit, and far from wishing to lessen him, we are glad of every opportunity to commend industry and attention to publick business, as in the present case.

The expectation of a call for a large number of Militia induced a hesitation in sending these arms to Camp. This was the more reasonable, as no application was made for them by order of your Ex-

* See page 498.

cellency, and it will, undoubtedly, be attended with inconveniency, and probably great loss to this State, to receive arms marked with the Continental brand in lieu of those marked with the State brand, besides the improbability of our receiving in exchange arms equally good with those now requested of us. The confidence we have in the propriety of your orders has induced this Council, on all occasions, to exert every power we possess to comply with your demands, and this confidence induces us now to give orders for sending the arms forward agreeable to your request. The attack made by the Indians on the frontier, has occasioned a demand for more rifles that we have at present fit for service, and we have received from Wm. Henry, Esq^{r}, 118 rifles belonging to the Continent, to put into the hands of the Militia.

Council to President of Congress, 1778.

In Council, Lancaster, May 18, 1778.

Sir,

The enclosed copy of a letter from Col^{l} Sam'l Hunter, Lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, will represent to you the state of that county. Thomas Hewitt, Esqr., of that county, is come down to procure arms, ammunition, &c., and is the bearer of this letter. We have procured about one hundred and twelve Rifles from Wm. Henry, Esqr., in exchange for Muskets and Bayonets, compleated, fitted, belonging to this State, which, with about two hundred others, his Excellency Gen^{l} Washington has requested for his army. These rifles will be forwarded to Cumberland & Northumberland, with about thirty others ordered from Northampton. Ammunition and Provisions we expect will be furnished by the Board of War, under the direction of Congress. The exertions of Col. Hunter, in calling out the Militia mentioned in his letter, appears to have been necessary and proper, and we hope will meet the approbation of Congress.

Your favour of the 15th instant, and the resolve of Congress of the same date, enclosed therein, discharging John Penn & Benjamin Chew, Esquires, have been read in Council.* We are wholly at a loss to know why they have been discharged in this manner, rather than according to the request of this Council some time ago. The respect we have for the determinations of Congress, induces us to suppose that there may be good and sufficient reasons for it.

* See page 507.

Samuel Pleasants to Timothy Matlack, 1778.

Philad., 5th mo., 18th, 1778.

Resp[d] Friend,

Having heard nothing of our Baggage since we left Lancaster,* I take the liberty to request thou will please let me know, as soon as possible, whether the Waggon is come to that Borough, & when we may expect it will reach Jessey Georges, where thou was kind enough to say our Baggage shou'd be forwarded, immediately on its getting to Lancaster. My Wife and her Companions having sent to General Washington for a pass into the City, he was so obliging as to send one for us, after which we reached home on the 30th ult., without any interruption. As it wou'd be much more convenient to us, if our Baggage cou'd be sent Immediately into the City, we shou'd be much obliged to thee to obtain a Pass from Gen'l Washington for that purpose, who, I have no doubt, would readily grant it.

I am, Respectfully,

Thy Friend,

SAM'L PLEASANTS.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., in Lancaster.

Council to President of Congress, 1778.

Lancaster, 19th May, 1778.

Sir,

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having received accounts of attacks being made by the Indians on several parts of our Western frontiers, and that upwards of thirty persons have been lately killed by them in Bedford county, appointed a Committee to confer with the Executive Council on this distressing circumstance: this conference being had, we are unanimously of opinion, that it is our duty to apply to Congress for effectual assistance against the Savages, as hath been afforded to the Southern States. This we conceive to be the more necessary in the present situation of our State, while the British enemy are in possession of our Capital. The great extent of our frontiers renders it almost impossible to prevent the sudden & horrid excursions of this Savage people, by any force which can be supported in forts or defences of that kind; but we conceive, that if an expedition were carried into the heart of the Indian country, and some of their towns destroyed, it

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 468.

would be much the most effectual defence, and be attended with less expence, and the loss of fewer men, than any mode of mere defence. We have a firm reliance on the wisdom of Congress in directing the measures in the present distressing situation of our affairs; yet we should be greatly wanting in our duty to the people whom we represent, if we neglected to solicit immediate and effectual assistance against an enemy which, with small number of men, may depopulate a greater country in a few days than a large British army would do in a whole campaign.

Signed by order of Council.

COUNCIL TO CHARLES PETTIT, ASS. Q. M. GEN., 1778.

Lancaster, May 19, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 16th instant* has been read in Council, and is now before the House of Assembly. What will be the sentiments of the House respect'g the clearing of Schuylkil for a present conveniency, appears to be very doubtful, at least it is not certain that they will readily adopt any plan for this purpose. It is apprehended, that the expence of this measure will very greatly exceed what you mention; but if it is absolutely necessary, there is every reason to suppose that the hiring of men for this purpose will be cheapest and most expeditious.

G. B., V. P.

To Mr. Charles Pettit, A. Q. M. General.

WM. HART TO PRES. WHARTON, 1778.

May y^e^ 19th, 1778.

Honoured Sir,

The presing Calls on Me for money to pay The horses I have purchased, will, I hope, Be Excuse for My troubling Council, at this time, take it Kind if Council could Send by y^e^ Bearer, either money, or an order to draw upon Samuel Smith, Sub Lt. of Bucks county.

From you very humble Servant,

WM. HART.

favour of Mr. Greer, Esqr.

Directed,

To the Honourable Thomas Wharton, junr., Presd.

* See page 513.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1778.

War Office, May 19th, 1778.

Sir,

Enclosed you have Copy of the Board's Letter to His Excellency the General, on the Subject of an immediate Support to the Inhabitants of the Frontiers. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the Matter, as the Letter to the General will shew the Plan we have adopted. We have sent an Order on the Commissary General of MS. for half a Ton of Powder & a Ton of Lead, which you will please to dispose of in such Way as you shall think proper. On this occasion the Board cannot help mentioning, that a large Quantity of Ammunition, sent up to the Lieutenants of Bedford & Westmoreland Counties last Winter has been most Shamefully wasted by the Militia, & as Council must feel as Sensibly as we do on this Score, we have no Doubt but that the bare mentioning it will induce them to give strict orders, & take the necessary Steps for preventing this Evil in future as *far as possible*. We send also an Order on Mr. Henry for a Number of Rifles, if he can spare them, but as Col. Butlers Corps will probably want Rifles, will it not be best to wait for their Arrival, & let them be well equipt at Lancaster? In any other Matter pointed out by Council the Board will be happy to concur.

I have the Honour to be with due Respect,

Your very obed^{t} Servt.

By order,

RICHARD PETERS.

You have the Consent of the Board to order all Provisions purchased under the Law of this State, in Northumberland county, to be issued to the Militia, directing proper returns to be made to the Board; the Commissioners there may proceed in their purchases, as the Board see no other Way of Supply.

Directed,

On Public Service—

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr., President of the Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsilvania, at Lancaster.

War Office, Richard Peters.

At a Court Martial, held at Trenton, May 19, 1778

Capt. Thomas Moore, (President.)

Members Present.

Captains—Montgomery,	Lieutenants—Berry,
Houston,	Philips,
McFatrick,	Fell,
Watkin,	Bell,
Hazelwood,	Fitz Simmons,
Martin,	Simpson,
Beasly,	Quality.
Brice.	

Prisoner before the Court.

John Gilfroy, Boatswain of the late Ship Montgomery, of State Pennsylvania, Stands Indicted for Mutiny, and Deserting to the Enemy in Philadelphia.

Prisoner's Defence.

Saith, That he went to Philadelphia (when the Enemy was there) to his Wife and Family, in order to support them, which was the chief reason of his Desertion—Confesses he went in a Battoe from Newtown Creeks mouth, to Philadelphia.

Evidences.

Robert Collins, Then 1st Lieut of sd Ship Montgomery, declareth on Oath, That sd John Gilfroy bred a Mutiny on board sd Ship, and struck him so that sd Collins fell over the breech of a Gun in time of action with the Enemy off Red bank, and sd Gilfroy did take up a Handspike against sd Collins when pointing a Gun at the Enemy, and sd Gilfroy said, "Damn you if you shall."

William Lamb, Then Gunner of sd Ship Montgomery, declareth on Oath, That sd John Gilfroy bred a Mutiny against sd Collins, at the time of Action against the Enemy off Red bank; That sd Lamb went to the assistance of sd Collins and struck Gilfroy with a Crow-bar; That Gilfroy was put in Irons, and let out again the next morning.

John Willson, Then Master of sd Ship Montgomery, declareth on Oath, That sd John Gilfroy bred a Mutiny on board sd Ship Montgomery, against sd Collins, 1st Lieut of sd Ship, at the time of Action with the Enemy off Red bank; That sd Willson was at the 3d Gun forward, and hearing a noise went to see the cause, and found sd Gilfroy taking up a Handspike and assaulting sd Collins; That sd Collins drew out a Pistol, and said he would blow Gilfroys brains out if he did not desist, on which Gilfroy used many abusive words (being in liquor) to sd Collins; That sd Lamb came up and struck Gilfroy with a Crow-bar, secur'd him and put him in Irons; That after the sd Ship Montgomery was burnt, the Crew of sd Ship stopp'd

at Coopers ferry, opposite Philadelphia, (on account of the Enemy's Ship firing upon them,) and there took out of a Boat sundry Articles belonging to s^{d} Ship, Then received orders to proceed to Burlington; That s^{d} Gilfroy accompanied the s^{d} Company belonging to s^{d} Ship to the Dunn Horse, then said he was making the best of his way to Burlington, and s^{d} Willson saw no more of s^{d} Gilfroy afterwards; That on Tuesday following s^{d} Willson went to Coopers ferry, in order to recover the s^{d} Ships' Barge; That below s^{d} Ferry s^{d} Willson saw Warwick Hale, (a Boat Builder) who s^{d} he saw s^{d} Gilfroy and John McDaniel go over the river to Philadelphia, on Saturday morning; That the Enemy took s^{d} Barge at the same time when s^{d} Gilfroy and McDaniel went over.

Doctor John Connor declareth on Oath, That he knew the s^{d} John Gilfroy to be Boatswain of s^{d} Ship Montgomery.

Michael Bonna, then Masters Mate of s^{d} Ship Montgomery, declareth on Oath, That he saw the s^{d} John Gilfroy drunk on board s^{d} Ship, confin'd to his Cabbin, and had a Musket; That James Stevens, (then 2^{d} Lieu^{t}. of s^{d} Ship Montgomery) offer'd to take the Musket from s^{d} Gilfroy, which he refus'd, saying, "I will sooner loose my life;" That after s^{d} Ship was burnt, s^{d} Gilfroy went with him to Coopers ferry, afterwards went on about three miles, and then s^{d} Bonna saw no more of s^{d} Gilfroy.

Sentence.

The Court having heard the Evidences, the Majority of s^{d} Court are of Opinion, That the s^{d} Prisoner, John Gilfroy, is worthy of Death.

THOMAS MOORE.

JONH THORNTON, Clk. Copy.

I do approve of the above Sentence.

JOHN HAZELWOOD, C. P. F.

Directed,

To Honorable George Bryan, Esq^{r}., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, in Lancaster.

COPY. TIM'Y PICKERING, JR., TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1778.

War Office, 19th May, 1776.

Sir,

The inclosed copy of a letter from Thomas Smith, Esq^{r}, will inform you of the distressed condition of the frontiers of this state. The counties of Westmoreland and Northumberland are equally exposed with Bedford. Other accounts correspond with that of Mr. Smith, and show that a general stroke is greatly to be apprehended: and that in addition to the barbarous savages the disaffected inhabi-

tants are a terror to their neighbours, and that some of them mingle with the indians in committing those horrid cruelties.

To repel the incursions of the indians and reduce the disaffected to obedience, nothing in our opinion will be effectual but a regular force under the direction of good officers. The inhabitants appear, many of them, to be a wild, ungovernable race, little less savage than their tawny neighbours; and by similar barbarities have in fact provoked them to revenge; but the innocent are now involved in one common calamity with the guilty, and all greatly disheartened; yet by the countenance of a few regular troops they would recover spirit and resolution, and be instructed in, and led to pursue, the necessary measures for the defence of their settlements.

It is with regret we ask for aid in this case from the main army; but we are convinced none other will be equal to the duty. An officer of established reputation for bravery and capacity, commanding a regular corps who punctually obey his orders, will alone be able to inspire the people with confidence, and reduce them to such a degree of order and regularity as shall be necessary for their defence. M^r^ Smith has named the Butler's for this service. Either of them w^d^ save the frontier: but if we are not misinformed Lieut. col. William Butler has been most conversant with the indians and their mode of fighting. We submit it therefore to your excellency, whether it will not be expedient to appoint him to this command. We conceive it will be absolutely necessary that his corps should amount to 250 men at least, and be composed of expert rifle men; the officers to be such as colonel Butler shall select, with your excellency's approbation, as best qualified for that kind of service.

Such a deduction from the army we hope will at this time be attended with no material inconvenience, especially as it has been considerably reinforced, and draughts are daily coming in. Six hundred from the state of New York will probably be at camp by the time this letter arrives there.

Congress have in contemplation an expedition against Detroit, or at least into the indian country, that they may strike at the root of the mischief. But should it be resolved on immediately the necessary preparations cannot be completed 'till September; and until then such a regular force as we have mentioned on the frontiers appears to us indispensible.

Should these measures for the present relief of the frontiers meet with your excellency's concurrence, this may be put in execution immediately, agreeably to the power given by the inclosed resolve. But should you judge other means more proper and equally expeditious for the relief of the frontiers, we beg your excellency to determine upon them at once without waiting for the opinion of the board, as we fear a day's delay may prove of very ill consequence.

By order of the board,

TIM. PICKERING, jun^r^.

Copy

Directed.—His Excellency General Washington.

Vice President Geo. Bryan to Col. Wm. Gibbon, 1778.

Lancaster, 19th May, 1778.

Sir,

The Indians, excited by the Emissaries of the British King, have made some incursions into the western & northwestern parts of this state. Northumberland County, in particular, has felt the beginnings of their horrid ravage & cruelty, & the evil threatens to spread. In aid of the Country a parcell of arms have been ordered from Northampton, through Reading, to your house. It is expected that about 30 of these are rifles & 70 Musquetts. I hope they are now on the road, & that they will soon reach the Susquehanna. Col. Hunter, of Augusta, has, I hope, lodged directions for forwarding them up the River without delay. If he should not, Thomas Hewitt, Esquire, of Northumberland, who is gone by way of York & Carlisle to hurry up ammunition, will soon call on you for the Guns. To this Gentleman you are to deliver them in order to be embarked for Augusta. Perhaps you may be assistant to him in this business. If you can I dare say you will.

Besides the above-mentioned arms there be 70 rifles packed up here for to be sent to Mr. Hunter by the first Waggon going for Pextang. These are to be delivered as the others from Northampton.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your very humble servant,

GEO. BRYAN, Vice presid^{t}.

Directed,

To Col. William Gibbon, Pextang.

Secretary Matlack to Maj. Gen. Greene, 1778.

Lancaster, 20th May, 1778.

Sir,

Some of the Horses which have been purchasing in this State for the light Cavalry, come in to your deputies here & elsewhere. Council order me to acquaint you that those in the Continental stable in this Town are not so happily situated as might be wished. The great scarcity of forage, & their liableness at such a public station to misuse, have already had an ill effect on their condition, & it is to be feared that the service will be disappointed should they be left here much longer. The second crop hay, on which they are fed,

brings on a disorder, which, tho' not dangerous, greatly weakens them. Captain Smith has had an order for those purchased by Mr. Riegart of this place; they were better taken care of in his own Stable till now.

An interposition of this sort, will, it is hoped, be excused, as it proceeds from a wish to serve the common cause.

I am Sir,

your most obed^{t},

& very hum^{e} Serv^{t},

T. M., Sr.

Comm'rs for Lancaster to T. Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

Yours of the 7th Inst., came this moment to hand, the Contents we have Considered, and agreeable to request inform you That we entirely concur in Sentiments with respect to laying and the necessity of Collecting the publick Taxes, with despatch, to answer present exegences.

The first five Shilling Tax we have laid, and have made Some progress in Collecting, Tho' a very great part remains unpaid, proceeding from some of our Collectors being called out to Military Service—others absolutely refusing that office.

The last publick Tax, agreeable to act of assembly, we met upon, and took such steps as seem'd most necessary and expedient for laying and Collecting the Same—this day we have met on the Same business again, and Shall prosecute it with all diligence in our power.

But we must beg leave to Represent to the Honble Council that our obstructions, in point of Collecting those Taxes, are so great that unless remov'd by the Honble assembly, we Shall not be able to go through with the Business.

We frequently have been, and Still are liable to be called into actual Service, even in the most important time we are ingaged in this business.

Our Collectors under the Same Situation, and in Short, every person belonging to our Board, have been one time or other called away.

We must, therefore, pray your Recommendation to the Honble assembly to Enact a law Exempting the Commissioners & assessors, their Clerk and Collectors from any Military duty or actual Service,

which will properly enable us to go through with our business, and Discharge the trust reposed in us, with integrety and dispatch.

We are, Sir,

Your most obed^{t} &
very Humble Serv^{ts},

THOS. CLARK,
CAS. SHAFFNER,
HENRY SNEVELY. } Coms^{rs}.

Lancaster, 19 May, 1778.

Directed,

Col. Timothy Matlack.

Thos. Galbraith to Col. Hambright, 1778.

Sir,

I left Ligonier the 2^{d} May, the People had entered into an association to defend the place while their provisions would last or ammunition; their store amounted to one month's provisions & about 1^{lb} powder & 1^{lb} of Lead ℔ man. The Time will soon elapse that necessity will compell the Inhabitants to seek for assistance elsewhere in the more interior parts of the Country. There are now two Brigades of Packhorses in Canicocheague, to go with loading for Fort Pitt. The Pennsylvania Road for some time hath been shut by the Enemy, & prevents the necessary supplies being left on the line; if two Companies of militia would be sent to guard the supplies of ammunition & Provisions up to Ligonier & Hanna's Town, the Inhabitants will be encouraged to defend the Posts more stoutly. The attention of the state to the Frontier will revive their drooping spirits; their situation will not permit those to move who can have supplies, to act on the Defensive, & their necessitys at present requires an immediate exertion.

I am, &c^{a},

THO^{s} GALBRAITH.

Lancaster, May 20th, 1778.

Directed,

To Col. Hambright.

Board of War to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, May 20th, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday the Board enclosed orders on the Commissary Gen[l] of Military stores for what Powder, Lead & Rifles our stock can afford. A letter from the Hon. Council is received relative to a demand from the Lieut[t] of Cumberland County, for Ammunition. It is improper that the Application should be made in this Channel, as it is impossible to keep, with Regularity, & very troublesome to open Accounts against every subordinate officer of a state, who chooses to apply, however well meant his Request may be. If Council will ask & undertake the distribution of the Articles wanted, this Board will chearfully comply with their Requisitions as far as the Circumstances of the Continent will admit. We are convinced that Council from their own Knowledge of Business, will agree with us in the Propriety of our sentiments. The last Winter the Frontier Counties, thro' their Lieutenants, were furnished with Ammunition sufficient to have made a stand against the savages, but we are informed the whole of this is wasted. We hope our Letter of yesterday is received, as therein we stated the Measures we had adopted by authority of Congress for the immediate Defence of the Frontiers, & we repeat our Desire cordially to co-operate in any Measures thought expedient for the Purpose of defeating the Designs of our Enemies. As we forgot the article of Flints, you have enclosed an order for two thousand.

Lead is an article very scarce in our magazines. Of Flints we have but a very insufficient supply. Powder is the most plenty. Arms are distressingly deficient as to Numbers in Repair.

I have the honor to be,
with due Respect,
Your very obed. Serv[t],
RICHARD PETERS.
By order.

P. S. We are sorry to see in Col. Carothers's Letter that the disaffected are well armed. The Necessity of immediately taking their arms from them need not be mentioned. It is to be feared that these Arms are purchased from some of the Militia, or procured in a Way that care & attention might perhaps prevent.

Directed,

Hon. George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of Pennsylvania.

Robert Levers to Sec'y Matlack, 1778.

Easton, May 20th, 1778.

Sir,

When the Letter I last received from you, relative to Persons unfriendly to this State, and in actual conjunction with the Enemy, came to hand, I was from home, but on my return forwarded that to Samuel Rea, Esquire, committed to my care, and hoped to have seen him before this time, having wrote to him on the subject.

As I have never received any particular Information of any Person I am not acquainted with any thing that has happened on the other side the Lehigh, Col. Stephen Ballier, one of the Commissioners having as I understand, made a Report to Council thereof. I know of no Person on this side the Lehigh, and therefore have nothing to return except that about eight or ten weeks ago one John Spering, a Shoemaker, and Residenter of this town, left this Place, and he having not yet returned, it is suspected that he went into Philadelphia. He has no Estate that I can learn, Real or Personal, worthy notice except a House and Lot in this Town. He ever appeared to be an Enemy to Independency, and a Friend to the late Government, he is hardly worth mentioning, only as he may serve the Enemy as a sure Guide into these Parts, being well acquainted with this County.

Lewis Gordon, Esquire, and his son John Gordon are discharged from their Parole's, agreeable to order of Council, and the former a few days ago took the Test according to law.

The Evening before last, James Hamilton, Esquire, called on me on his way to the Union, being as I suppose, a visit to Mr. Penn & Mr. Chew, He expects to return here in a few days. There is a woman whom I have not seen, has reported that a few days before she came out, she saw Spering in Philadelphia.

I am Sir, with great respect your most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire Secretary of the Commonweath of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Council to Delegates of Congress, 1778.

Lancaster, 20th of May, 1778.

Sirs,

Council recommended to the board of war at York, the furnishing of some powder & lead, & rifle guns to Colonel Carothers for the use of the Militia of Cumberland, & since that application was made for ammunition & victuals for the Militia of Northumberland. A letter of yesterday from the board is since received, signed by Mr. Peters, inclosing an order for a half a Ton of Gunpowder, & a Ton of lead for the use of the "inhabitants, who will embody themselves for the defence of the" frontiers of this State; the words stroked below being interlined. It is strange that after an application for the use of the Militia drawn out by the L^t^ for the defence of the frontier, & consequently to be paid & victualled by the Honourable Congress this ammunition should be expressly appropriated to associators going forth as volunteers, to the exclusion of the Militia; or at least treating their efforts as the exertions of persons not employed & paid by the United States. The insertion of the words above marked, between the lines, after the first draught, fixes this Idea of the board in our view. It seems strange to us, that when a most dangerous invasion has been made upon the Eastern part of this State, & when the Indians hired by an Enemy, who avow & justify in the face of all Europe, the horrid barbarities of such allies, have been for months past threatening to desolate the western Countries, so little provision has been made for the relief of the back Country that the informations of Council & Assembly have prevailed little, till one Mr. Smith of Bedford Co., has thought fit to interpose & point out the means of relief, & officers to be employed; that the supply of ammunition & arms & of victuals for the Militia, necessarily drawn out to oppose the savage foe, is either evaded or denied; for the reference to the Commis^rs^ for purchase in Northumberland is little better, as it is no secret that as provisions for the Inhabitants there are scarce, none can be spared.

We desire your attention to these matters, & to have it settled, if not already done, whether Congress mean to pay & victual the Militia, necessarily embodied on the Western Frontiers, as has been done in the case of the Southern States. This may surely be expected in an invasion & attack made on Pens^a^, as part of the United States, & not on her own acc^t^. If there be any hesitation we ought to know it, that we may take our measures, for between two dependances the County may be ruined.

The order for ammunition, recited above, is now returned, to be drawn anew, so as to have it for the Militia, & as an issue for public use, not as a mere bounty to Associators. While this is doing the delivery may be ordered (to save time) to John Carothers, Esq., L^t^ of

Cumberland Co., for the use of Westmoreland, Bedford, Cumberland, Northumberland, ¼ part each, in case no other recent supply has been sent to the two former. No time should be lost in placing it in Mr. C's hands. Indeed, it seems strange how it came to be sent hither, especially, as considering matters in our view, the supply is so small The abuse which Mr. Peters mentions of waste of former supplies sent to Westmoreland and Bedford had already fallen under our notice, and had given us pain. These people are, we own, difficult to manage. The Lieuts. shall be admonished on that head.

I am, Gent'n., with great respect,
Your most obd't and very hum. serv't.,
G. B., Vice Pt.

To the Delegates of Penna.

Council to L't Sam'l Hunter, 1778.

Lancaster, 21st May, 1778.

Sir,

It gave Council great pain to find the Indians had began their horrid ravages. Your Letter of the 14th Inst, on this subject has been here several days. In the mean time one hundred fire arms, of w^ch 31 are rifles, (being all in the state stores) are ordered from Northampton to Colonel Will^m Gibbon's at Harris's Ferry. These, it is hoped are on the way. Besides these Guns, seventy rifles have been procured from the Continental store here, & Mr. Hambright has undertaken to forward them with dispatch to the same place. Will^m Hewit, Esquire, of your County, applying to us for ammunition & arms at the same time, he was prevailed on to proceed to York Town & solicit personally for supplies, assisted by recommendations from Council. Before this Gentleman could reach that place & communicate his Business, an order of the Board of War issued for delivering to our order at Carlisle or Lebanon, one Ton of Lead, & ½ a Ton of gunpowder; rifle & musquet properly sorted. From Mr. Hewit nothing is come, but the order is sent forward, in order that John Carothers, Esquire, L^t of Cumberland, may receive the Powder & lead, one fourth for your use. If Mr. Hewit appears, he is to take the care of forwarding them, & also the Fire arms, gone for Harris's to you. It is presumed, that the musquetts may be useful in stockades & houses. Be careful to avoid, as far as you can, the reproach fallen on the Militia of Bedford & Westmoreland of wasting ammunition sent to them last winter. This may be one reason why the present issue is smaller than could be wished. Perhaps Mr. Hewit may obtain Flints.

The present attack of the Savages is doubtless concerted by our European Enemy, who avow in the face of the world, the employment of such horrid Allies. It is manifestly made in concert with the invaders of the eastern side of our state. Beyond all doubt, then Pennsilvania has a claim to be supported by the force & money of the United States, as was done lately for the S. States. Council & Assembly have therefore in a joint representation to Congress, set forth the case of our suffering settlers, & demanded the aid & protection necessary. And Council alone finding the victualing of the Militia of Northumberland, referred to the provisions purchased by Commiss[a] in your County; a fund as Council apprehend, of a very scanty size, have urged upon the deleg[s] of Pennsilvania to apply for proper and adequate supplies of food & stores for the Militia, necessarily embodied for the immediate defence of the County.

The Board of War have desired Gen'l Washington to send Col. Butler & at least 250 rifle men from the army as an immediate succour to the Militia against the Indians. This aid, tho' small is also precarious. For tho' the British forces seem to meditate a retreat from our City, yet there is reason to doubt whether they will put out to sea, or force a passage thro' New Jersey to New York. Perhaps therefore, the Gen'l may be not hasty in sending off this detachment.

Congress have on different grounds, & occasions, obtained from Council the stores of this state of most kinds. It is therefore necessary to depend on their issues at this time. Be assured, that every thing shall be done to influence them to support & supply the Militia.

It is said, that there are at Fort Augusta a number of Cannon of different Calibres; If these can be made use of in defending any important pass it will be proper to use them.

I am Sir, y[r]

very hum. Serv[t],

G. B., Vice pres[t].

P. S. We inclose to you a Letter to the Commiss[rs] for purchasing provis[s] to issue what they may have procured to the Militia; tho' we expect little use of this allowance of the board of war; & we have accordingly stated this matter to Congress.

Indorsed

To Samuel Hunter, Esq., Lieutenant of Northumberland County.

M. Hillegas to President Wharton, 1778.

York Town, May 21st, 1778.

My Dear Sir,

I last Night saw in Mr. Dunlap's yesterdays News Paper, for the first Time, the publication of the Act of Assembly entitled, "An "Act for the calling in of the Bills of Credit issued by the Legislative "Authority of Pennsylvania, under the Sanction & Authority of "the Crown of Great Britain, & for other Purposes therein men-"tioned," which 'till then I was ignorant that such an act had passed. I doubt not, the only object of this Law was to prevent for the future that infamous & wicked distinction the Tories were making between the Money struck under the Authority of the late King and of those Monies struck by Congress and this State, in their undervaluing the latter, to the great Prejudice of the Common Cause.

I have a Balance still in my hands as late State Treasurer, the Major part of which was intended to be paid according to Law to the Committee of Accounts as soon as we should meet, consisting of ragged and defaced Bills, &c., by me exchanged as Treasurer, that the same might be by them burned and destroyed according to Law. This I hope will now soon be done, as the appearance of things are, that ere long we shall have the pleasure of seeing each other in Peace in Philad'a, finish my accounts, pay the Balance on the Taxes, Excise, &c., in my Hands; This Settlement and the Assorting of the Bills according to their several Emissions with the time of the Committee in Burning, will take up several days, more time than could be spared by me, between this and the first of June, considering the great Business, I now have in hand and which for the Common Cause cannot just now be laid aside.

As I don't find any Notice is taken in the said Act, of me as late Treasurer, or of the public Monies in my Hands, & some Men might undertake to say, That if the Business is not done before the first day of June, the old money in my hands must be my Loss, and no way regard my having received it as State Treasurer. Tho' this is scarcely probable to suppose, yet permit me, my Old Friend, to request that you'll please to favor me with a few Lines containing your Opinion & Advice on this Head, which will very much oblige,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedit

& most hum. servt,

M. HILLEGAS.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, Lancaster.

* See page 268.

Council to Jno. Carothers, 1778.

Lancaster, 21st May, 1778.

Sir,

Council have had y^r^ Letter of the 12^th^ Instant, before them for some time; without delay they backed your call on the Board of War at York for arms & ammunition. You were silent as to the number of Rifles that might be in good repair at Carlisle, whereupon 48 Guns of that sort were procured here, & sent to you by a waggon two days since, the Waggoner's name is McEwen; the Brigade he belonged to was directed by one Williamson, they went by way of York Town.

As the Board of War sent to Council an order for one ton of lead & half a ton of Gunpowder, rifle & musket, in such proportion as should be proper, it is likely that no rifles nor flints have been ordered. The order too had improper limitations in it. For this reason it was sent to our delegates in Congress to be amended, & sent without delay to you. One-fourth of this issue, is appropriated to the use of y^r^ County, and the other three to the relief of Northumberland, Bedford & Westmoreland. Tho's Hewitt, Esq^r^, of Northumberland, left us for York Town, recommended for a supply of Rifles, flints, & fire arms, to be sent to Sam^l^ Hunter, Esq^r^ at Augusta. The proportion of powder & lead for that County he may perhaps call for; arms for the same, are, it is hoped, by this time at Coll Gibbon's at Harris' Ferry.

Council & Assembly have made a strong representation to Congress of the urgent necessity of defending our frontiers ag^t^ the Indians as they did those of the Southern States; and Council yesterday wrote to the delegates of Pennsylvania, to know whether it was intended to supply food & all other necessaries to the Militia, embodied for the public defence, that measures may be taken accordingly. It appears, that General Washington has been requested to send 250 riflemen at least, under Colonel Butler, from his army to assist the Militia; but at this important hour, when the British forces show signs of retreating from Philad'a, & while it is uncertain whether they will embark, or force a passage thro' New Jersey, it is doubtful whether any detatchment whatever will be made.

Council had some time since learned with regret, that the Militia of Bedford & Northumberland, had inconsiderately applied to inferior purposes the ammunition issued for their defence. The Board of War now remind us of their wasteful conduct. It is recommended to you to prevent as far as in your power, such reproach falling on the Militia of your County.

Directed,

John Carothers, Esq^r^, Lieut. of Cumberland.

Col. Clement Biddle to President Wharton.

Moorhall, 21 May, 1778.

Sir,

John Hemberger, Powder maker on French Creek, called on me to inform me there was about a Tonn of Powder belonging to this State, which would be completed in two Days; if you will inform me where you would choose to have it sent, I will order a waggon with it, and a proper Guard.

With Compliments to Mrs. Wharton & Miss Fishbourne,

I am, Sir, with respect,

Your mo. Obed. Serv't,

CLEMENT BIDDLE.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President, Lancaster.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, May 21st, 1778.

Sir,

By the Bearer of this, the Board have sent orders to the Officers commanding at Reading, Bethlehem & Easton to discharge the Militia stationed at those Posts by Resolution of Congress Day of last as the General on being cousulted thinks their Services there unnecessary, except a small Guard over the Stores at Reading, Col. Nicola's Invalids being sufficient for the two other Posts. As there may be some of these Troops whose Times of Service are not expired, the Board have directed that they be ordered to join General Lacey. We inform you of this Proceeding that you may send any Orders you may think proper on the subject. As the Express is wanted to proceed on another Route, as speedily as possible, you will please expedite his Departure from Lancaster.

I am, with Respect,

Your very obed't Servt,

RICHARD PETERS.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^r^, Vice President S. E. Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

War Office.

V. P. George Bryan to Col. John Weitzel, 1778.

Lancaster, May 22d, 1778.

Sir,

The Moravian and Swenkfelders have been very urgent with Assembly to relax the Test, and free them from the abjuration part. The claim of the King of Great Britian forbids any thing like this being done at present. When that prince shall renounce his claim it will be time enough to reconsider the Test. However, as these people are not to be feared, either as to numbers or malice, it is the wish of government not to distress them by any unequal fines, or by calling them, without special occasion happens, to take the oath at all. The disabilities ensuing upon their own neglect are heavy, and will without further pressing (which may be termed rigor by people in general, and persecution by themselves) operate strongly upon them.

On these grounds, we wish it to be understood, that Council and Assembly desires to avoid any noise from the people above mentioned, and to have them dealt with, as others, in regard to the delinquency in the Militia. Your prudent advice to your friends and deputies, without exposing these lines to the knowledge of the petitioners, will serve the public interest and oblige,

Your very obed't serv't,

G. B.

P. S. The president is very sick.*

Directed.—To Col. Weitzel, Northampton.

V. P. Bryan to Col. John Weitzel, 1778.

Lancaster, 22d May, 1778.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to discontinue the Guards of Militia lately ordered to be stationed at Bethlehem & Easton, as the Board of War, after consulting with the General, consider them as no longer necessary.

If the Guards at present on duty, at the posts above mentioned, have been lately called out, or should have any considerable part of their Tour of Duty to accomplish, they are to be ordered directly to the Militia Camp, between the Rivers Schuylkill & Delaware, there to compleat their term.

I am, Sir,

Your very obed. Serv^t.

G. B., V^ce Presid^t.

Col. Weitzel, L^t of Northampton.

* See page 493.

V. P. Bryan to Jacob Morgan, 1778.

Lancaster, 22d May, 1778.

Sir,

The Board of War, at York Town, after consulting with the Gen'l, are of opinion, that reserving a Small Guard over the Stores, the Guard at Reading be discontinued. The number of the reduced Guard need not, we suppose, exceed 50, including officers; but as you must be the best judge of this, it is left to your prudence.

Should you have lately relieved this Guard, or if the detachment now on Duty in Reading, have any considerable part of their term of Duty to accomplish, you are to send Supernumerary officers & privates to the Militia Camp, now or late under the Command of General Lacey, there to finish their Service.

I am, Sir,

Your very obed. Serv^{t}.

G. B., V. Pr.

To Jacob Morgan, Esquire, L^{t}. of Berks.

Examination of Richard Weston, 1778.

Examination of Richard Weston, of Bedford county, Frankstown township, and State of Pennsylvania.

That John Weston, his brother, asked him if he would go out to hunt. That he had heard at the Standing Stone that a company of men were going to join the English and the Indians, and his informant was Benjamin Elliot, in conversation with Francis Clugget. That he refused to go hunting, and that brother John and wife both came and entreated him to go, and he was prevailed on. That last Thursday was a week he set off with his said brother, and the same evening was led by his brother to a company of men whom they met in the woods, in Sinking Spring Valley, viz^{t}., Samuel Berrow, Jacob Here, Michael Here, Peter Shaver, Peter Daly, Adam Portmerser, Peter Portmerser, and old Portmerser, the father of Adam and Peter, —— McKee, James Little, John Campbell and Wm. Campbell, William Hamson, James Armstrong, John and William Shilling, ando thers, whoes name he does not remember, making in the whole, with his brother and himself, the number of thirty one. That McKee, Jacob Hare and Samuel Berrow, in particular, urged him, with a promise of three hundred acres of land, to pick the same where he pleased, if he would go with the company to the Kittaning to join four or five hundred English and Indians, and to return to Fort Pitt, Frankstown and Sinking Valley, to kill the male inha-

bitants capable of bearing arms, who were in any kind of fort or place of defence, and all others of any sex or age who attempted to escape or elude their search. That if he refused to join said company, he would be hung or banished to the bay of Honduras, if the English prevailed over this country. That he went with the company over Allegany mountain. That in their progress they were met by Indians, and that one of them shot his brother, and another of them scalped him. That after his brother was shot, McKee pulled a letter out of his pocket which he had got from an English officer in Carlisle gaol, and with the letter displayed a handkerchief, crying peace, peace, brothers, but that the Savages ran off without giving attention. That immediately he returned with McKee, Jacob and Michael Hare, Little, Adam Portmerser, Peter Portmerser, William and John Shilling, Peter Shaver, William Hamson, and one or two more whose names he does not know. That he parted with some of them at the foot of Allegany, and with others in Sinking Valley, all of whom declared they never would return home or surrender themselves, but go to Baltimore and wait the arrival of the English Fleet. That he came and surrendered himself to Captain John McDonald, at Edward Beatys. That McKey informed the company that he understood a number of English were to join the Savages, and about the tenth of next month to come down upon this State. That he was informed by his brother, John Weston, that John Hess was to meet and join the company. Examination taken April 27th, 1778.

That he heard Zebediah Rickets, now a prisoner, say, that if he knew how to leave his family he would go away, to avoid taking the oath prescribed by the State.

Examination of Michael Warrick:

That he lodged in Jacob Rowlers house last Saturday night; that a little before day he was awoke by the barking of dogs; that he heard soon after a person knocking at the door, and called said Rowles wife by name repeatedly, and asked if her husband was in the house; that she awoke her husband, who went out of doors and remained some time, returned and went to bed; that he awoke John Vansant.

Examination of John Vanzant:

That he asked Jacob Rowler who called him out, who answered he was not out.

Edward Evans to Col. Matlack, 1778.

Near Trenton, May 23d, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I think it nececarey to Inform you that on the 20th of Septr last, the day after our Militia marched from the falls of Schoolkill, I entered the City of Philada, that on my Leaving it the same day I fell in with a Corporal and 5 or 6 lame Soldiers belonging to Col. Nichola's Corps of Invalids, (the Colonel then being at Bristol) with these men I was determined to bring off a small Hoyate that I knew was some time ago in the possetion of a person who had a suspitious Carrackter, with respect to our Cause, by the name of Oswal Eave; I accordingly waited on him and Demanded the same, when he informed me on his Honour that it was on board Captain Josiars Continental Gallate, but as I did not Choos to take his word I went with the men in Serch of the same, and in my serch for the Hoyate I found a Large Quantity of Powder, I judged about a Ton or upwards. I Demanded to know whose powder it was, he in the First place informed me that It was his own property, afterwards he told me that it was John Nixons, that it might be Long to the province. I informed him that I should Remove it; he Refused to let it go, unless I showed him my authority; that upon this I proceeded to Col. McVaughs, where I procured 3 Waggons, and with the same Guard Delivered it in the Care of a Captain of Light Horse belonging to the state of North Carolina, who happened to be at Col. McVaughs, where it was safe Delivered to Col. Flowers, at Bristol; that I proceeded to Head Quarters and Laid the same before General Nash, who assured me the affair should be Laid before the other Officers, and the affare seen into. But as that Brave officer was shortly after carried off, I apprehend the affare has not been Laid in a proper Line. I think it nececary to be informed whether the said powder was private property or belonged to the United States; If privit property, I am of Oppinion that it is Confiscated, as it was Convaid & appeared to be Designed for the Enemy. I think John Nixons Charickter was injewred by Eave saying that it was his property, I shall therefore rite to Mr. Nixon concerning the same, that he may have an oppertunity of Clearing himself from such an aspertion, as I looked on you to be the properest person to have the Matter Dejusted & brought to Light, I have used the freedom to rite this to you, as I intend to Clame the same if it should not belong to the United States, of which I shall be Extreamly oblig'd to you to inform me as soon as its Convenient. N. B. I should have mentioned it to you when I saw you in Lancaster, had I have none the fate of our General.

I am, with Esteem,
your most obedient,
EDWARD EVANS.

Directed.—To Col. Timothey Matlack, at or near Lancaster.

Jona. B. Smith to V. P. G. Bryan, 1778.

1st. That 20,010,000 Dollars emitted from 22d day of June prox, 1775, till—*, be borrowed on Loan Office Certificates of the United States, & destroyed.

2. That it be recommended to the respective States forthwith to provide laws for stopping the circulation of all bills of the emissions aforesaid, after the — day of — next, by not considering them as legal tender, but that they be received in exchange for Loan office certificates, or in payment of a continental tax to be raised by the States, agreeable to a resolution of Congress of — day of — last.

3. That the Commissioners of the Cont^{l} L. Offices be directed to cut, by a circular punch of an inch diameter, an hole in each bill, which they may receive of the said emissions, to cross the same, &c., &c., & to transmit such bills to the Continental Treasurer, to be in presence of a Committee of Congress—destroyed.†

5. That it be recommended to the several States, by laws, &c., to lay taxes, cancel their respective emissions, confiscate & sell the estates of persons who have forfeited, &c., & lending to the United States, on Loan office certificates, the money arising from such sales, & for ceasing to make further emissions of bills of Credit.

8. That the proceedings of the Convention of Committees at N. Haven, be transmitted to the Southern States; the propriety of adopting similar measures be referred to their serious consideration, & that it be recommended to States Eastward of Delaware to suspend the execution of the plan of the Convention for regulating prices, untill Congress shall inform them of the proceedings of the Southern States upon the same subject.

Sunday morn'g.

Sir,

I shall be very glad to have your sentiments on the propriety & Safety of them in some part of our bills of Credit, in manner as above. The Credit of our money is an object now in view here. I confess I fear too great an effect on the public mind for adopting this measure. I thank you for your several letters. The acc^{ts} from y^{e} city are *flattering*. Is it a Mr. Baily, who several years ago was connected with Stephen Carmicks family? But *timeo danaos & dona ferentes*. By Mr. Baily I send you a packet containing some French & some old English Papers, which you'l please to return when you shall have sufficiently satisfied yourself. I will endeavor for later ones. The acc^{t} from Gen'l Lacey is clever & does him credit. I have made it accompany the accounts from the City, so that it has been in almost every hand here. By Mr. Delany I shall give you more of the treaty this day.

I am, Sir, y^{r} aficct.

* A small piece here torn off.

† See page 538.

Near 1 week ago we heard that 2 French & 1 Spanish Vessel were taken off the Capes of Virginia, hav'g fought 2 hours a 60 Gun Ship—hearing no more since it is now doubted. Be pleased to thank Col. Matlack for me for his letter.

Gen'l Washington had a great & genteel well conducted entertainment at Camp.

Directed,

Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., Lancaster.

Council to Genl. Washington, 1778.

Lancaster, 23d May, 1778.

Sir,

As it is apprehended here, that the Marquis de la Fayette has been nominated by the most Christian King, Ambassador to the United States of America, & that he may be expected shortly to pass thro' this borough in his way to Congress, it would highly oblige the Executive Council of this State, if some previous intimation of the time of his Lordship's Journey could be given by one of the Gentlemen of your Excellency's familly, in order that due honour might be done to so respectable a personage by this State, as far as present circumstances may admit.

This morning early, his Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junior, Esquire, died here very unexpectedly. The State suffers by the loss of the worthy president. But tho' Council sensibly feel the want of his presence in their deliberations, your Excellency may be assured of their most spirited exertions, & that they will steadily co-operate with you in every measure for the public good,

I am, may it please your Excellency,

Y^r^ Excell^ys^ most obed^t^

& very humb. Serv^t^.

G. B.

Council to Timothy Pickering, &c., 1778.

Lancaster, 24th May, 1778.

Sir,

I hastened out of bed at an early hour this morning to issue a Warrant for impressing 12 Waggons to accommodate Colonel Harrisons Regiment of Artillery, & a detachment of the 2d Virginia State Regiment from Wrights' Ferry to Camp, but I must take the liberty of remarking on this apparent Emergency.

The heavy burden on this Ssate, and particularly the County of Lancaster, ought to have influenced the hiring of Carriages for the Troops of Virginia, within that State. This is the usual practice. But if this were otherwise, Frederic, in Maryland, or York County, in this State, might easily have been applied to, during the march of these troops. The great numbers already sent from hence to Camp, & still forcing out, will, I fear, make it difficult for to have these troops provided without delay; at least, the present call will have a Tendency to deprive the General of twelve Waggons he has demanded, an inconvenience I know you would wish to avoid.

Mr. Ross complains that the County Waggon Master does not reside in this Borough. Doubtless it is inconvenient, but the huge arrears due to the people of this county, & the number called for at a time of great scarcity of Labourers, makes the office very irksome. Couucil are difficulted to get active man to undertake it, or continue in it. It should be considered, that if the owners are thoroughly unwilling to turn out their teams, they have many indirect means to withhold them, tho' the greatest pains, & even force, be applied to compel them.

I trust that you will see the necessity of ordering any Waggons, that may be procured on the present occasion, to be instantly discharged on their arrival at Camp. They must go very inconveniently & much unfurnished for any stay, to continue them in service; under such disagreeable circumstances will greatly disgust the people, and thereby hurt the service, have a tendency to render the Quarter M^{r} odious and prevent his usefulness in future.

Timothy Pickering, Esq^{r}., & the Board of War, at York Town.

Col. Richard McAlester to President Wharton, 1778.

May 24th, 1778.

S^{r},

I have been striveing Ever since Rec^{d} Your Exellencie's Orders, to Git a Return of the Arms in this County, both Public & Privet. There is som Batalions I have Got no Return from as yet; altho' the Repeated Dimands I have made to have them Reddy by the 15th or 16 Instant, I have not Rec^{d} from more than 5 Batalions thire Returns. M^{r} Hays Returns not one Privet arm, ondly Public ones. The People Complain so hevely Respecting the arms which they Give up for two years Past, which wass Apraised, sent out in the Militia & not paid for, that they all Indevour to secbret thire arms what they now have, and it is impossible to Git a good ac^{t} of them, as they Suspect they will be appraised and taken as before. Indeed, the minds of the people are Exceedingly Sowered by this; thire

arms wass apraised at that time Exceeding loo—Must pay at least 4 or 5 times the price now; they look to me for Pay, and Gives me much oneasyness. I have Rec^{d} no orders of the Kind; but was it Consistant, should be Glad to have it in my Power to Quiet them & Remove this Murmoring; the amount will not be so Verry Considerable, as the apraisements wass so very loo. Arms is Realy scarce in this County since the time they were taken up and went to Camp before the fate of fort washington; but still not so much as it appears, as the people sechret them, & believe wass the former loss of them, w^{h} som blankets Discharged w^{d} alter the Case. This day being a field day, I observed there did'nt apear 20 Guns in the field, I have a list of those who have arms far as as the Returns is made, but Suspect the half hath Denied having aney. The Amount of the Returns made to me of Private arms, is 402, the Publick arms is 86; twenty four of them in my hands that I Purched. 8 muskets of my Purchising hath been taken from the Militia on there way from Camp by officers; som Got Rec^{ts}, & others did not; however, I made them prove it. Shall forward all the other Returns as fast as I can Colect them, but am Certain shall, for the Reaisons Given, not Git an ac^{t} of the half ontill those old matters is settled. However, the half that hath been seen is not worth any thing, nor Can they be mad fit to be of any Service in the field. I am told, & belive it to be true, many hide thire Guns in their barns & such Places as they Can't be Seen, for fear of having them taken from, & others that hath not hid them, Swear no Person shall have them, but if they are obliged to march, will take thire one Gun themselves, but no other Person shall lay a hand on them.

I weat y^{r} Exelencees furder Directions in this Matter, and am y^{r} Exelencee's Most ob^{t} Hu^{bl} Servant,

R^{d} MCALESTER.

Directed,

His Exelency, Thomas Wharton Esqr., Presedent of the Supraim Executif Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

V. P. Geo. Bryan to Michael Hillegas, 1778.

Lancaster, 29th May, 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 21st Instant, directed to our late worthy president, was referred to me by M^{r} James Wharton, for reply. Your desire to know whether you, as late Treasurer of Pennsylvania, can be within the obligation of bringing in to the present Treasurer, before the 1st of June next, such of the Bills of Credit, emmitted

under the authority of the King of Great Britain, as may be in your hands. Mr Bayard, the speaker of Assembly, & the Council have seen yr Letter, but the exposition of Laws belongs to the Courts of Justice. A very safe, & for what appears, ready course, is suggested to me. This is, that you pack in a small Box, all such bills, & after fixing your seals on it, you lodge it in the office of David Rittenhouse, Esquire, till you have opportunity to meet the Committee of Accounts, & count & deliver over the same.*

I am, Sir,

Your very obed. Servt,

GEO. BRYAN.

Directed,

To Michael Hillegas, Esqr.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Your favour of the 20th Instant and an Order for half a ton of powder, one ton of lead, & two thousand Flints is received. The earnest entreaties for support to the frontier counties are very distressing, and their application for rifles for the Militia very pressing. Rifles are not in the power of this Council, and therefore we must depend on a supply from your board, this we hope may be furnished by repairing the continental rifles now at Carlisle. Precautions are given to the Lieutenants of the Counties, respecting the Ammunition committed to their care, and they are directed to take every Measure Necessary to prevent the waste of it.

The Orders of the 21st for discharging the Guards is duly attended to. We suppose that Col. Grubb has acted consistent with your ideas in calling for a guard of one hundred men at Lebanon to secure the stores there. The H'nble W. A. Atlee insists on the necessity of keeping up a Guard of 200 men in this borough until he has collected the Hessian prisoners.

Lancaster, May 25th, 1778.

P. S. It is proposed to withdraw the guard at Middleton as soon as the Hessians are brought.

Directed,

To the Board of War.

* See page 588.

Council to Colonel Galbraith, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, 25th May, 1778.

Sir,

The remains of the Crews of the Gallies lately employed on the Delaware are just come to this Borough. It was in contemplation to employ them on the Chesapeak Bay, Congress at least asked for them. But now it is hoped that they may be soon re-established in their Vessels in guarding the River, for the Gallies are yet in being, and may, perhaps, be refitted.

In the mean time as they are at present here, & must be paid & victualled, it will relieve you from the necessity of employing so many Militia as was desired some days since, should you count on 130 of these boatmen towards the guard at Lancaster, I dare say the people of the County will have no objection that these folks undertake their duty for a few weeks.

I am,
Sir,
your very obed^{t} Serv^{t}.

Directed,
Col. Galbraith.

Samuel Laird to Secretary Matlack, 1778.

Carlisle, 25th May, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday and not before I had the Honor of receiving your Letter of the 7th Inst., and have not at present an oppertunity of consulting the other Commissioners, therefore can only inform you that in most parts of the County the Collectors are collecting the 5p^{c} tax, and hath paid a considerable part thereof to the Treasurer. The Board have been repeatedly disappointed by the Assistant Assessors appointed for the Township of Lack, therefore that Township is not taxed, and the appeal for the northern district hath upon that acc^{t} been detain'd until now, and this day I set out to assist in holding an Appeal in said District. The last mentioned tax We intend pro-

ceeding upon as soon as the Appeal is over, and if the Interposition of the Legislature shall be found necessary we will inform you.

I am with great respect, Sir,

your very H'ble Servant,

SAM[l] LAIRD,

one of the Comm[rs] of C. C.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secr[y] to the Hon'ble Executive Council, Lancaster.

Lieutenant John Wetzel to President Wharton, 1778.

Maccoungo, in Northampton County, May 25[th], 1778.

Sir,

I receiv'd yours of the 22[nd] Inst, and perceive by it that the Moravians and Sinkfelders have been busy with their petitions for redress of Grievances, which I am sure, Sir, were never inflicted on them in this County more than on other people of different denominations, or more than the Laws of this Common Wealth justly directs.

Kind Sir, you may believe me when I take this friendly opportunity to inform you that I should be heartily sorry to distress any one individual, or set of Men with unequal fines within the limits of my jurisdiction, further than Government provides in cases of collecting of fines. I would, Sir, further inform you with respect to the disaffected Men in this County, that one tenth part of them have not taken the oath yet, nor do they ever mean to do it; tho' special occasion offers every day to cause us to force them to give assurances of their good behaviour towards our Laws and the dictates of Government.

Sir, I can with sincerity inform you that the bad behaviour of the Tories in this County, and those in particular who have been some time ago committed to Easton Goal merit no Lenity, notwithstanding I have treated them, and will ever endeavour to treat mankind in such a manner as no part of my Conduct shall or may be looked upon as rigorous, or my Actions ever deserve the name of persecution; On this foundation, Sir, I shall ever Act whilst I live, and whilst I have the Honour to be in Office under so respectable a Body as the Honourable Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania

Sir, I can with pleasure assure you that I shall ever make it my

particular study to promote peace and harmony, and will ever endeavour to suppress anything that would tend to give our Council or Assembly disturbance or trouble.

I am, Sir, with due respect,
your most humble
and most obedient Servant,
JOHN WETZEL, Lieutenant.

P. S. I am, Sir, sincerely sorry for the indisposition of our Honourable President's health at present.*

Lieut. Samuel Hunter to Council, 1778.

Sunbury, 26th May, 1778.

Sir,

Since I wrote Council last there is frequently Expresses comeing to inform me of Savages killing and Captivaiting the Back inhabitants. The 16th Inst., nigh the mouth of Bald Eagle creek, there was killed and scalped by the Indians three men that was puting in a spring crop, and on the 18th Inst., nigh Pine Creek, there was a man & woman & child taken Prisoners, and on the 20th Inst., there was two men and seven women and Childern taken from one House near Lycoming creek—they took them all Prisoners, and Yesterday there was an Express from Muncy, informing me of three familys, Consisting of Sixteen in number, being killed and taken away from Loyalsock, about six miles above Sam. Wallis's; there was but two of them found killd, as the Enimy had set fire to the Houses. It has so alarmed the inhabitants to such a degree that they are all fled to Samuel Wallis's, where they intend to make a stand untill the militia of those two lower Battalions marches up to their assistance.

I have Given Orders for all that is Provided with arms to hold themselves in Rediness Imadiatly for their owen Defence. Yet there is a Great backwardness prevails with a number of the militia of this County in Regard of their Situations, being with great Propriety frontiers themselves, so that its hard to turn out from their familys.

We are Badly off for Provisions, and Especially meat, as there is no Commissary appointed for this County to Buy up such stores. And arms is very much wanted as there is not above seven Hundred and fifty that is fit for use, and sixty of them Publick arms, which is Very Ordinary. I give Orders for a Company of Volintiers out of Each of the Battalions to be formed, which will do more service

* See page 546.

than all the militia of the County, for taking the People in Classes as their Tower of duty comes will not do to fight Indians. As the General Assembly is now siting, I would be Desireous they would appoint one of themselves, that is out of this County, to procure arms and ammunition, and Nominate a person to act as Commissary to purchase Provisions. I made mention of Col[l] William Cook, who would undertake to find the militia of this County in Provisions, provided he was furnished with Cash, which is Very much wanted, for I Doubt the Indian War is become General. I have Wrote about arms and ammunition, but Thomas Hewit, Esq[r], Just arriveing here, by whome I am informed there is such articles Provided for this County, and I hope will be a means of Encourageing the People to make a stand, suppose all that had arms was fully Bent in turning out against the Enimys of their Country.

I am s[r],

with Due Respect,

your Excellency's most

Obedient Humb[e] Serv[t],

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Jun[r], President of y[e] Honorable the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Pr Jn[o] Harris, Jun[r], Express.

Col. G. Gibson to Col. Matlack, 1778.

D[r] Sir,

On the other Side you have the order of procession. You will please to make such animadversions on the Conduct of the Gent[n] who Officiated as Officers as you may think they merited.

I am Sir, yours, &c.,

G. GIBSON.

P. S. If necessary I have annex'd the names of the officers:
G. G., Cap[t]. Col. Bayard, Lieu[t]. Col[o] Ross, Ensign.

As The Corpse was brought into the Street & placed on the Bier, a Signal was then made from the Cupulo of the Court house by Letting fly a Flag, which announced to the Gent[n] who commanded the Artillery that the procession was to begin, upon which the

minute Guns began to Fire, & the Procession moved on in the following Order.

Two Serjeants with their arms reversed.
Lieu[t] & Ensign.
Band of Music.
Fifes & Drums.
Soldiers in 4 Divisions, 10 deep, arms Reversed.
Cap[t] of the Comp'y.
Clergy.
Physicians.
Corpse, &c.*

Directed,

Col[o] Matlack, Pres[t].

Navy Board to Commissioners, &c., 1778.

War Office, May 27, 1778.

Gentlemen,

We have been favoured with your letter on the subject of your appointment. By a former resolution of Congress the direction of the Commissioners on the East side of Susquehanna was entirely placed on the Honble Council of this state, and, therefore, for any directions you want you will apply to them. We have allowed no pay for clerk to the Commissioners on this side the river, as we conceived the Commissioners sufficient for their services. The above resolution† of Congress was transmitted to Council a considerable time ago, and we suppose their letter to you has miscarried, or you would have been informed that your purchases were directed to be stopped. On receipt of this you will no doubt pay due attention to the resolution and deliver over all you have purchased to the commissary of the district, taking his receipt, which will be necessary as a voucher to you on settlement of your accounts with the Council.

We are your obedient serv[ts],

RICHARD PETERS.
By order of the Board.

* For a fuller account of the arrangements see Col. Rec., Vol., XI., p. 498–500.

† See page 422.

Hon. Thomas McKean to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I forgot in my letter of this morning to mention that a certain James Bracken (one of the persons named in your last Proclamation) was brought before me yesterday without any testimony or evidence whatsoever against him. I took his own Examination, wherein he endeavours to excuse his going to Philadelphia by saying he was in a consumption, & went there for the benefit of skilful Physicians and good medicines, and that he gave no intelligence to the Enemy, nor did he join, aid or comfort them. To keep him confined in goal, when at his trial perhaps little may be proved against him, may be a reflexion on the justice of the State; and yet I have an unfavorable impression of the man, as I am told he has been uniformly inimical. He took the oath of allegiance yesterday, and is sent to the Prison of this county.

Perhaps Council may have some Evidence against this man, or know the names of some persons who may be witnesses against him; if so, I must beg the earliest information what or who it is. If there is none I shall be obliged to bail him.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient sevant,

THO. M'KEAN.

York-Town, May 27th, 1777.

P. S. Two of Felte Shockey's men, as supposed, have been taken & brought before me, viz., Jas. Nugent & Gresenor, both near Chambers-burg in Cumberland county. These are all out of 16 whom I have examined carefully, having employed three days about it, whom I think can be fairly charged with being concerned in the counterfeiting business or uttering counterfeit money knowingly. In a few weeks I shall send them to Carlisle for Trial; I do not choose to take them out of the goal of this place long before their trial, as it is much securer than the goal of Cumberland County.

Directed.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of Pennsylania.

Free.—Tho^s M'Kean.

Board of War to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, May 27, 1778.

Sir,

The board have been favoured with your letter of the 25th instant. In addition to the order for ammunition, the board directed that Mr Henry should, if possible, furnish you with 100 rifles: a copy of the order is inclosed. Besides these, Genl Roberdeau has had orders for and recd a number of arms for the guard at Sinking Spring Valley. All the public workmen are busily engaged in repairing arms; but all do not supply the demands of the army.

In our letter of the 19th instant, we inclosed a copy of our letter to Genl Washington, proposing that about 250 riflemen should be sent from camp for the immediate defence of the frontiers. The General has favoured us with his answer, informing that he had ordered that number to march forthwith. They consist of part of the 13th Virginia regiment, (the other part being already at fort Pitt,) & Colo Brodhead's regiment. About 100 of the latter were of Colo Morgan's rifle corps; and both this & the 13th Virga regt were raised on the western frontiers. This force, we trust, will effectually secure the frontiers, and we hope enable the inhabitants to return to their settlements.

In consequence of their report & the resolve of Congress thereon, the Board supposed 300 militia had been stationed at Bethlehem & Easton: but by the return of their messenger they find there have been none at either place, nor at Allentown. Those at Reading are discharged, except about 50 for the town guard.

On the 6th instant, we wrote to Colo Grubb, at Lebanon, desiring to know the number of his guard, and the manner of forming it; but have received no answer. A guard there is indispensibly necessary; but of what strength we cannot determine. We will write to Colo Flower on the subject, that as few as possible may be called from their occupations to perform military duty.

I am, Sir,

very respectfully,

your obedt servt,

TIM. PICKERING, junr.

By order.

Directed,

On public service.

The Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

(War Office.)

Council to Gen. Washington, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, May 27, 1778.

Sir,

As there now appears to be a happy prospect of your Excellency's regaining, in a short time, the possession of the City of Philadelphia, and there is reason to apprehend that the provocations which have been given by some of the inhabitants of that city, may have excited a spirit of revenge in the minds of their insulted and abused countrymen, which, if not restrained in time, may in the end be attended with very mischievous consequences, and, possibly, involve many innocent people in dreadful calamities; This Council thinks the measures necessary to be taken to prevent the disorders which may arise upon the army and the people of the state re entering the City, worthy of your Excellency's attention for a few moments, and therefore trouble you with this intimation of our apprehensions: At the same time assuring you, that this Council will consider the exertions which you may find necessary for such a purpose, as a favour done to the state.

Indorsed,

To His Excellency, General Washington.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, May 28, 1778.

Resolved: That all further purchases of Cloathing on Account of the United States by the Clothier General, his Deputies or Agents, be forthwith Suspended.

Copy.

Signed, CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Copy of a resolve of Congress, sent in by Jacob S. Howell, June 4, 1778.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 507.

Board of War to Wm. Henry, 1778.

War Office, May 19, 1778.

Sir,

You will please to deliver to the order of the Hon. Council of Pennsylvania, one hundred *common* Rifles (without Bayonets) if you have or can procure that number speedily. A light Corps from Camp is expected at Lancaster, & you will keep in view the providing them with what they want for frontier Business. We mention this, as we have written to the Council, lest your stock should be exhausted by this Order.

By order of the Board,
RICHARD PETERS.

To W^m^ Henry, Esq^r^, Superintend^t^ Arms, &c., Lancaster.
Copy examined by Tim. Pickering, j^r^.

Gen. Washington to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, 28 May, 1778.

Sir,

I received your favor of the 23^d^ instant, and sincerely condole with the Council and state on the loss of so worthy a citizen and president.

I thank you, exceedingly, for your assurances of co-operation whenever circumstances of public honor & safety make it necessary.

As yet I have had no official information of the Marquiss De La Fayette's appointment as ambassador from the Court of France to the United States of North America. But when I am advised of such an event, I shall take a pleasure in giving the Council previous notice of his departure from the army.

I am, Sir,
with all due respect,
your most hble serv^t^,
G^o^ WASHINGTON.

P. S. Before I received your letter of the 27^th^ Instant, I had determined on all necessary measures, in case of the enemies evacuating Philadelphia, for the preservation of private property and the protection of the citizen of every denomination. I would beg leave to recommend it to the civil authority of the commonwealth to fix itself as soon as possible in the City. Till then the Council may be

assured of my endeavours and attention to the peace, safety and good order of the place.

G° WASHINGTON.

Head Quarters,
29th May, 1778.

Directed,
Honble George Bryan.

JOHN CAROTHERS TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, 1778.

East pennsborrow, May 28, 1778.

Sir,

The Indians Continue their savage cruelty upon our frontiers; Numbers of families are obliged to fly and Leave their all to the mercy of a savage foe, and numbers fall victims to their unabated cruelty. Col. Buchanan, the bearer, will give council a particular account of the Distresses of the frontier of this county, and the murders Lately commited in that Quarter; the unarmed state of the inhabitants, notwithstanding the assistance already given by the public, adds greatly to the calamity. The Quota of ammunition for this county I have sent to the fronteers; part to Canogogige & path valley, & part to Kishycoquilles, but the number of men obliged to be under arms in this Last place, makes the Quantity to each man very trifling, and numbers to have none at all. I have given strick charge with respect to unnecessary waste of the ammunition. M^r Hoge, a member of councils, wrote me some time ago about a number of Muskets which might be had upon application to a certain gentleman, If Col. Buchanan be of opinion that muskets would be any how usefull to them, (if rifles cannot be had,) perhaps they might yet be had. I have purchased about twenty rifles, & sent up to Kishycoquilles, at between ten & twenty-two pounds ten shillings price, & could perhaps, get a few more. If I thought myself Justifiable in giving thirty pounds a piece, I would be glad to have the opinion of council upon that matter. The rifles sent up by council I have sent to Canegogige & path valley. There is another matter I beg Leave to mention to council, sometime ago a number of Tories got in arms near Standing stone, of which council has had information already, Whereupon a number of officers and men (not of the classes called to do duty) who were Looked upon to be best woodsmen, were obliged to turn out, & had a very severe march, almost to the Kittaning & back, being often in great Danger from the Indians, five, out of six spyes they sent out, were killed, & suffered much, Likewise, for want of provisions. The matter now is, how these men are to be paid, as numbers of them very usefull and

necessary on this expedition, were induced to turn out by their officers promising that they should be paid. I would also beg Leave to ask council what is my Duty with respect to Deserters from the militia, whither I should Levy the fine from them, or send them back to camp, or whither a militia Deserter can be Tried by a court martial not in actual service—we have Just now taken one, Brown, who Deserted from Col. Watts' Class, & sent him to prison, & it is thought before we Could procure a guard & send him to camp, there to have his tryal, that his Class would be discharged, & Likewise all the militia who were in actual service when he Deserted, & of consequence all who could be evidence in his case. I understand some dispute happening between him and one of his Company officers, was the reason why he came off; & perhaps there may be something more Criminal in his case than mere Desertion. The Deserter insists upon paying his fines, & Declares he will never serve in that company, for he thinks they would take his life. If I thought a court martial of Col. Watts officers could try him on their return home, or after they come home, I would write to him on this matter, but as with me it is doubtfull, I request councils Direction in this & all similar cases.

I am, sir,

with respect,

Your very Humble servent,

JN° CAROTHERS, L. C° C°.

P. S. It is probable if an expedition is formed against any of the Indian Towns near the fronteers of this county, that Numbers in futer Classes may that not be Called then to do Duty, would be induced to march, provided they had a promise from council of exemption from Duty when their Class might be called. Numbers of the militia of this county, who were called to camp Last winter, Lost their Blankets, and are constantly applying to me for the pay, agreeable to an order of Council for that purpose. If Council, therefore, may think it my Duty to pay said Blankets, I would be glad of there Directions in the matter.

J. C., L. C°.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Commissioners of Chester Co. to Council, 1778.

Sign of the Ship, May 29th, 1778.

Honoured Sirs,

We, the Commissioners of Chester County, Received your Letter of the 7th Instant. In answer thereto we beg leave to Inform Council we have proceeded Agreeable to the Act entitled a Supplement to the Act for Emiting the sum of £200,000, &c. In Appointing Assessors for each Township, a number of which made Returns of property, according to the direction of our Warrants, & the County Assessors have Taxed the same according to Law, & appointed Collectors—the Appeals have regularly been held. The Collectors have received a considerable part of s^{d} Tax, and paid into the hands of Thomas Levis, Esq^{r}, County Treasurer. The 24th day of June next is appointed for a final settlement with the s^{d} Collectors, but from the vicinity of the enemy (as we apprehend) we have not been able to get a return of property from near one third of the Townships in the County, the Township Assessors having neglected, or refused to act, upon which we fined them, & Isued our Writs to the Sheriff, but for the reasons above he did not execute them.

But with respect to the other Act of General Assembly, for raising the sum of 620,000 Dollars, we have proceeded to appoint Freeholders in every Township, to Join with the Assessors in laying the Tax—the Quotas of the Township is also struck.

We further beg leave to offer a few reasons why we conceive it will be difficult to levy the Quota of the aforesaid sum for this County; first, because the appointing of the Collectors and the Manner of their proceeding in distraining, &c., if occation is not clearly pointed out; second, whether appeals are to be held, and by whom; third, because the reference to the Act entitled a supplement to the Act for Emiting the sum of 200,000, &c., wherein it is enacted the two Freeholders as well as Comm'rs, Assessors, &c., shall be vested with the like powers, &c., as is in said act mentioned, and as the s^{d} recited act knows nothing of any Freeholders we cannot find any way to fine them for their refusal to act. In that capacity, and as the Township Assessor's Oath, we are of oppinion must necessarily differ from the Oath prescribed in s^{d} Act. We are Humbly of opinion that the Interposition of Legislature in the above remarks is necessary. The Right of Appeals in cases of Taxation, this board look upon to be so Essential to the Freedom of any people that a Tax ought never to be laid without it, or human beings must be supposed to have become perfect.

This board requests Council would give them some Directions with respect to the last mentioned act, upon Rect. of which they

Intend to proceed in this & every other Business that may come before them.

We have the Honour to be
the Councils most
obedient Humble Servᵗˢ.

WM. EVANS.
SKETCHʸ MORTON.
DAVID CLOYD.

To the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Directed,
To the Honourable George Bryan, Esqr.

John Davis to Col. T. Matlack, 1778.

Carlisle, 29th May, 1778.

D. Sʳ,

The Bearer, Mr. John Ramsy, has ten horses he purchased by order of Council—he wanted to leave them with me. I would receive them with pleasure, but I have near three hundred horses on hand, and I cant possibly get men to send them to Camp. I'm oblidged to send them by fiftys & sixtys as I can. I have advised Mr. Ramsy to conduct his own horse as far as Lancaster. I have Issued him forage to carry him that far—the horses dont ansʳ the directions that Council gave him, but the settlement, where he lived, was so much distress'd by the savages that he cou'd not get better.

I am, D. Sʳ,
your most obedᵗ
humble servᵗ,

JOHN DAVIS.

Directed,
To Colonel Timothy Matlack, Lancaster. By Mr. Ramsy.

Col. Jacob Morgan to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Reading, May 29th, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to orders of Council of the 18th of this Instant, I sent 78 Muskets, 7 Rifles, and 15 Guns, in all 100 Stand, to the care of Colonel Gibbons, at Harrises Ferry, for the use of the Northumberland Militia; as for the Rifles Mentioned in Mr. Tyler's hands, I have Receiv'd none. But about two months ago I Receiv'd 300

Stand of Arms, & Accoutraments from Colonel Henry, Lieutenant of the city of Philadelphia, from Allenstown, in Northampton County.

Also Agreeable to the order of Council of the. 22nd of this Instant, I Reduced the Guard in Reading Town to 50 Rank and File; the Remainder they had but a short time of their turn of Duty to Accomplish; it would be of little service to send them to Camp—I discharged them.

I am Sir,
with Great Respect,
your most obedient
Humble servant,
JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed.

On publick service. To George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Executive Council, at Lancaster.

Vice President Bryan to Lt. Samuel Hunter, 1778.

Lancaster, 29th May, 1778.

Sir,

My last was of the 21st Instant. It was forwarded to you by Mr Henry Antes, of your County. I hope that by the time this arrives you will have received the 70 rifle Guns sent from this place, 31 Rifles, and 69 musquetts ordered from Northampton; they were directed to the care of Colonel Gibbon, at Pextang. Of one Ton of lead, half a ton of Gunpowder, & 2000 flints, ordered for the use of the frontiers by the board of War, one fourth part was allotted to you. These were to be received at Carlisle by Colonel Carothers, Lieutenant of Cumberland. He was instructed to send them forward by Mr. Hewitt, perhaps Mr. Antes will help them along. My last also acquainted you that the board of War had directed such provisions as had been puchased in your County by the Commissrs named by the Assembly, to be issued for the Militia; you had an order to the Commissrs to that purpose inclosed. At the same time you were told that the purchase of these Gentlemen was considered as small, & that the board had been urged to assign victuals from a more sufficient fund.

Since that Letter I have your favour of the 26th Instant, by John Harris, Junior. By him you will receive fifteen hundred pounds. This sum is intended to purchase provisions in case the board of War hath not, before you receive it, made provision in another

manner. But if they have, then you are to apply the money to the pay & other purposes of the Militia.

The accounts you give of your situation, & of the horrid murders of the savages, are truly affecting. It is with regret we find the Country & the public stores so unfurnished of rifle Guns in this exigence. But so it is. Of Musquetts our State Magazines are not wholly unfurnished, but the Continental officers are applying to us for arms, from some strange neglect in repairing those belonging to Congress. However, as it is expected that the British Army will in a few days abandon our State, the public Arms in the hands of the Militia in the eastern Counties will be no longer needed for the service on the Delaware. But these are not rifles.

With great satisfaction I inform you of the arrival here from head-Quarters of Genl. M^{c}Intosh & the 13th Virginia Regiment. He is to command against the Indians. The 8th Pennsilvania Reg^{t} is actually marched from Camp on the same service. This Officer tells me that he means to enter the Indian Country & attack them at home. Without doubt this is the only mode of protecting the Country to any purpose. I just mention to you a report from York Town, brought by a Gentleman of credit, that the Seneca's had lately sued for peace. How far these people are to be depended on before they be chastized, I will not venture to say.

I am, Sir,

your most ob^{t} Serv^{t},

G. B., V. P^{t}.

Directed,

To Samuel Hunter, Esq^{r}, L^{t} of Northumberland.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 30th May, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 21st Instant I Rec^{d} yesterday, informing me of Arms and Ammunition being sent to Col^{l} William Gibbons for the use of this County, but as I was informed none had arrived there only the seventy Rifles that was sent from Lancaster, which is on their way comeing here between this & Harrisses ferry, and there is none of the Ammunition or Flints come to Harris's as yet; which Occasions me to send M^{r} John Weitzel to superintend the forwarding of what Ever stores is comeing to this place with Dispatch, and to Endeavour to get some more Arms, if Possable to be had; the Quantity of Powder and lead allotted for this County is but Very

small, considering what Number is Able to bear Arms, suppose we are not Quite out of Ammunition, yet its not when its Wanted that we should have to send for it.

I hope we shall be able to make a stand onest, the People is Releived of the Pannick they were struck with last Monday after hearing of the Ravages done by y^e^ Indians at Loyal Sock, it was Realy distressing to see the Women and Childern from all Quarters Running to places the Men had appointed to make a stand. I expect Council will supply Mr. Weitzel with Cash to Purchase Provisions, as the Commissioners appointed for that Business has never acted, nor done any thing that way, so that there is no store of Provisions, and three Classes and better of the Militia now embodied and doing Duty, which Requires more Provisions than I can procure here, suppose none has refused to Credit me as yet. There has been no murder nor captivateing since my last to Council, the People has all assembled to particular places and is makeing little forts to leave their familys in; as for more Particulars I Refer you to the Bearer.

I am, S^r^, with due Respect, your

most Obed^t^ Humb'l Serv^t^,

SAM^l^ HUNTER, Lieu^t^.

Directed,

Honorable George Bryan, Esq^r^, Vice President of the supreme Executive Councel, Lancaster.

Fav^d^ by Mr. Jn^o^ Weitzel.

M. Hillegas to Vice President George Bryan, 1778.

York Town, May 30, 1778.

My Dear Sir,

Since I was favoured with yours of the 25^th^ Inst.,* as an Answer to mine to our late worthy President, I have been employed in assorting according to to the different Emissions, part of the Money in my Hands belonging to the State, and which I think (with submission to better Judges) I ought to pay only to a Committee of Assembly, to be by them burnt & destroy'd according to Law. I say I have been assorting the same, but shall not be able to compleat the whole before the first day of June, or at least so that I cannot be sure but there may be some left. It gives me some pain in not discovering by your Letter, that there was some difference between private people (some Whigs others Tories,) who had laid their old Money by making a most Scandalous difference between that and the Money struck since as well by the State as by Congress, and

* See page 538.

myself considered as late Treasurer, and one too who without vanity or boasting of doing his duty, can assert that he has never parted with a Shilling of that Money to encourage the horrid work alluded to, but kept the whole *as the property of the State*, SACRED.

My D^r^ Sir, I should be sorry If you should suspect any thing else in me regarding the advice you were pleased to give me in sending the Money to Mr. Rittenhouse but what was perfectly respectful. But being apprehensive I shall not with my other business have it in my Power to Compleat it so but that there will be danger of leaving some behind, which might afterwards be considered to be private property, and of Course a loss to me, And the mode of sending it. And that there appears, I think, an Irregularity in Mr. Rittenhouse's receiving that part which I ought according to Law to pay to a Committee of Assembly to be burnt. All this with troubling Mr. R. to receive into his Charge a Box without counting its Contents. A Box which notwithstanding all his Care, Integrity, & fidelity, might meet with Accidents. I say all this together occasions my troubling you with this, and to beg you'll please to reconsider the matter, Whether as late Treasurer I had not better pay it to a Committee appointed or to be appointed for that purpose, than be at y^e^ Expence of sending it to Lancaster.

For my part I would fain humbly to suppose I was not intended by the Assembly to be included in the late Laws. However your advice will always be esteemed a favour.

I shewed the major part of y^e^ money (such as was pack'd up) to y^e^ Hon^ble^ Tho^s^ M^c^Kean, Esq^r^, & have requested him to write you his Mind on y^e^ Subject.

I have the honor to be with much esteem and Regard

yours very affectionately,

M. HILLEGAS.

Directed,

Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^r^, Lancaster.

THOMAS MCKEAN TO V. P. GEORGE BRYAN, 1778.

Dear Sir,

At the request of Mr. Hillegas I viewed a large box, full of Pennsylvania money emitted during the Proprietary Government, which he had received as Treasurer. He asked me if I was of opinion that he ought to send it to Mr. Rittenhouse, the present Treasurer, to be exchanged, or in other words whether he could in any degree be considered as an object of the law for calling in the bills of credit, &c., passed the 23d March last; I answered him in the negative, as he did not receive this money for the purpose of being exchanged, nor

could it be exchanged, but to be counted, burnt & destroyed by a Committee of the Assembly, which ought to be done annually; besides, as Mr. Rittenhouse could not give him an equal sum, nor he receive it in any other money, it appeared to me that he was neither within the spirit nor letter of the Act. Upon this he showed me your letter on this very subject, which seemed to imply a doubt respecting the propriety of his retaining this money until burnt by a Committee of Assembly, when it was thought advisable by him, as he seemed uneasy to give the least suspicion of offence, to write to you again on the affair, as he was straightened in point of time, and if he sent it doubted whether Mr. Rittenhouse would take charge of it, and be responsible in case of accidents, until he, Mr. Hillegas, was called upon for a settlement by the Assembly.

I have nothing now to inform you of but that I have just finished the examination of a certain Mark Milliken, who confesses he made stamps for counterfeiting for Shockey, King, &c., &c., and that he rec^{d} £50 a pair, but denies that he ever counterfeited any money, or passed any such. Please to favour me with an answer respecting Bracken, as he appears to be ill indeed. Adieu.

Your most obedient,
Humble Servant,

THO. M'KEAN.

York Town, May 30th, 1778.

Directed,

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President, &c., Lancaster.

Favoured by Doct^{r} Jennings.

General Roberdeau to V. President George Bryan, 1778.

York, May 30th, 1778.

Sir,

Mr. Robert Craig, a Commissioner of Cloathing, appointed, as he informs, by this State, applied to the Board of War, and the Board to Congress, on his behalf, thro' the Delegates of this State, for a supply of Cash for his Department, on a Representation that he had expended Twenty thousand pounds, and could not perform the duties of his office with a less sum than Ten thousand pounds. This affair came into Congress in so vague a manner from a representation that our Treasury was exhausted, therefore the Requisition was made to Congress, without Mr. Craig's having it in his power to produce an Inventory or inform where the Goods were deposited, but in general that they were in the hands of a number of respectable people in the

County of Lancaster. From these Considerations, and plainly seeing that Congress would not comply with any such request, but through the State immediately, or the Delegates thereof, I withdrew the application to have an opportunity to inform you as also that I have not the least doubt but Congress would most readily advance the State for the Cloathier's Department on a proper application as above.

I am, Sir,

Y^r^ most ob. humble Serv^t^,

DAN. ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

℔ Mr. Craig.

Col. Jacob Morgan to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

Reading, May 30th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I returned last night from Camp, where I see 15 Regiments under arms, I think as well disciplined as any of they british troops can be, they performed several manovres with great exactness & dispatch, under they direction of Baron Stuben, and afterward reviewed by his Excellency Genl. Washington. I am informed that our whole army are in as good order as them 15 Regiments, their arms and accoutrements are indeed in good order, and they look pretty well cloathed.

There had been no news from Philad^a^ for Two Days, as there was no person suffered to come out. Part of their shiping is droped down the river, some as low as the Chevaux de fries. All their sick, baggage, followers of the army, &c., are on bord its thought. If they are not already left it they will not be left there many hours. Our army is to follow them, Immediately, through Jersey, Genl. Lee with they first division is to Cross Delaware at East Town, Gen^l^ Mifflin as Sherold's, Gen^l^ De Fiat at Corell's Ferrys, they remainder of the army by way of Trenton. Only one Reg^t^ to go into Philad^a^, under they command of Gen^l^ Arnold, who is to Regulate matters until they Civil Law takes place, which will be as soon as they Executive Council can get there. Indeed, I think the sooner you get

there the better. I will keep a good express ready and am promised they earliest intelligence from Camp to forward to you.

I am, Dr Sir,

With great respect,

Your most obedt Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, Jr.

Directed,

To Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice Prest of the State Pennsa at, Lancaster.

℔ Express.

Thomas McKean to V. P. George Bryan, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 21st came safe to hand, together with the extracts of Colo. Piper's & Councillor Urie's Letters.

It may be well to make examples of some of the most wicked of the prisoners in Bedford, as soon as practicable; but when I reflect on the Savages having scalped eleven women & children, within five miles of the town of Bedford; that the people must be all in arms; that these criminals might escape for want of testimony or the Attorney General's presence, who cannot well bear the expence of so long a journey without some salary; that before a Precept could be sent to the Sheriff of that county, and the legal time for summoning Jurors, &c., being allowed, we should be in the beginning of harvest, with the Court; and more especially that in great probability the Enemy may soon evacuate Philadelphia, which happening, will require me immediately to resign my seat in Congress, and to repair thither, as there will be an absolute necessity for a Judge on the spot. I say, Sir, when I consider these things I am rather of opinion it would be advisable to defer holding a court there yet. As there will no doubt many more of those wretches be made prisoners, it would be as well, in my judgment, to prevent the expense of two courts, within perhaps two months, & try them all at once. If you think differently from me about holding the court in Bedford at this time, be so good to mention it to Mr. Atlee, who can write a Precept & sign it, and afterwards send it to me; he may fix any day for holding the court that he thinks proper, it will be agreeable to me.

I condole with poor Mrs. Wharton on the death of the President. There is nothing new here. Jo. Bone will be executed to day, in

pursuance of your Warrant. Why did not the General Assembly choose a new President.

I am, dear Sir,

With great regard,

Your most obedient servant,

THO. M'KEAN.

York Town, May 27th, 1778.

Directed,

To the Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, At Lancaster.

Free. Tho. M'Kean.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to John Hambright, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 31st May, 1778.

Dear Sir,

We are Really in a Meloncoly situation in this County at present, the back inhabitants has all Evacuated their habitations and Assembled in different places; all above Muncy to Lycoming is come to Samuel Wallises, and the People of Muncy has gathered to Captain Bradys, all above Lycoming is at Antis's Mill & the mouth of Bald Eagle Creek, all the inhabitants of Penn's Valley is gathered to one place in Potters Township, the Inhabitants of White Dear Township is assembled at three Different places, and the Back setlers of Bufaloe is come down to the River, Penn's Township likewise has moved to the River, all from Muncy Hill to Chilisquake has assembled at three Different places, Fishing Creek and Mahoning Setlement has all come to the River side; as you are acquainted with the Country makes me mention this, to think what a pannick prevails in this County; it is really Distressing to see the inhabitants flying away and leaving their all, Especially the Jersey people, that came up here this last Winter and Spring, not one stays, but sets of to the Jerseys again; the People in General is so Discouraged that I am afraid we we will not be able to make proper stands against the Enemy, unless we get more assistance from some other quarter; there was a number of the Inhabitants with me to day, to consult in Regard of Petitiong Congress for some Companys to be stationed here and properly supported, for as the generality of the setlers is poor they cannot subsist long in case they are obliged to keep so many of the Militia on Duty, as there is at this time three Classes, which takes the chief of all the arms, so that there is not enough left to suply them that guards the Weomen and Children.

John Weitzel sets of to day to forward the arms that is allowed to

come here, and to Endeavour to get more arms, ammunition & flints; camp Kettles is very much wanted, if any such thing can be had. I Expect you will Endeavour all you can to get some money from Council for Mr. Weitzel for to purchase Provisions, otherwise we will be all undone, as he can inform you himself how matters stand.

I am, Dr Sr.,

Your most obedt humbe servt,

SAM'L HUNTER.

Directed,

To John Hambright, Esqr., Member of the Supreme Executive Council, Lancaster.

Favd by Mr Jno. Weitzel.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sunbury, 1st June, 1778.

Sir,

I Received yours by John Harris, Junr, Yesterday, and fifteen Hundred Pounds in Cash for purchasing Provisions; in case the Board of War has not made Provisions in another way, the money shall be put to ye use proposed by Council; the seventy rifles that came from Lancaster I Expect to Receive to Day or to morrow at fardest; but those that was to come from Northampton I hear nothing of them being arrived at Coll. Gibbons; there is two Hundred & fifty weight of Gun Powder come there, and four or five Hundred wt of lead but no flints; I mentioned to Council that Mr John Weitzel would be Down to superintend any stores that was Ordered for this County, and likewise would apply to Council for cash to Purchase Flour or Wheat in Lancaster County, but we having such heavy Rains that has stopped him from seting off as soon as Expected. The letters I give him for Council and Instructions to himself I will not alter, Suppose the cash is come that was very much wanted here, Yet more arms and ammunition allowed for this County, Exclusive of what Council mentions, would be very Necessary to Quiet the minds of the People, as there is a great many more that will use arms in their own defence than we have enrolled in the Militia, Especially men above ye age of fifty three and under Eighteen, will do to be stationed at such little Forts as they are erecting for the preservation of the Women & Childen. Suppose its very hard to have all the County doing Military Duty and no labour going on, which must be the Ruien of this poor infant County if to Continue any time.

There has no Damages been done since the 24th of last month by

the Indians; suppose they have been frequently seen by Our People a Cross the River oposite Antis's Mill & at y^e^ Great Island, by information I Rec^d^ this day.

I am S^r^ your Honors most
Ob^t^ Humble serv^t^,
SAM'L HUNTER, Lieu^t^.

Directed.

Honorable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, Lancaster.

Alex. McDowel to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

June 1^st^, 1778.

Honoured Sir,

You will forgive these hints, which will give your weightier affairs but little interruption, to be used as you think they deserve. I have been in several parts of three Counties of this State, and find in all, great complaints made by Menonists & Quakers, of the oath of allegiance now required of its Subjects, as including an obligation to fight, contrary to their known principles. They say, a good many at least, that they would affirm to be faithful Subjects to the State, endeavour nothing to its hurt, but discover all they knew doing so, &c., in consistence with their principles against bearing arms; to require more of them, they say, is persecution; and tho' the Constitution promises the rights of Subjects to all denominations, presently oaths are required, which they cannot take unless otherways qualified, without renouncing their principles: and that such are not trials who are friends to the State, but who are Sincere in their profession. I find some of our sensible Whigs say, an oath of allegiance, suited to these people's known Sentiments, might increase the friends of the State and lessen the warm discontents of many; and then levy more from them than others under the name of a Tax, for the use of the State, but not of fines; as they would enjoy greater advantages by not bearing arms. And such as refuse qualifications, so framed, would have no excuse, but appear plainly to be enemies.

Wishing direction to all our public Councils, a speedy issue of war and happy establishment of these States,

I am, Sir,
Your humble serv^t^,
ALEX'R McDOWELL.

Directed,

George Bryan, Esq'r, Vice-president of Pennsylvania State.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 2d June, 1778.

Sir,

I am to inform Council that there is a Petition Drawn up by the inhabitants of this County, to be sent to Congress, setting forth the Danger the county is in at this present time, by the incursions of the Savages, and the impossibility of the Inhabitants themselves being able to defend it, without more assistance from some other quarter, as will seem most Expedient to Congress to Grant them Relief. The chief motive upon which this Petition was formed was to quiet the minds of the People, as they are apprehensive of a severe streak from the Indians about the time of Harvest, which would take all the Militia of this county to Guard against the Savages, and so by that means they would lose all their Crops, which would ruien this poor Infant county.

This Petition is to be carryed to Council by Robert Frute & Thomas Jordan, Esq^rs., for their aprobation, and to know whether such a Request Reasonable or not, it never was intended to be caryed to Congress, otherwise then Council aproveing of s^d Petition. I would not have signed it otherwise, then it being first sent to Council for their Perusal, as I told the People assembled that Council was doing all they could for us, and Produced the last letter I had from you to let them see what was a doing for us and the other frontier Countys.

The People in General allowed the Petition should have the aprobation of Council before it would be sent to Congress, and in case it was not thought that an Imediat supply of more men could not be had that way, that Council would order some Classes of the Militia from some of the Neighbouring Counties, (that's not at this time involved in the Indian Warr) to our assistance.

I am, Sir, with due Respect,

Your Honers most

Obedient Humb^e Servt.

SAM'L HUNTER, Lieu^t.

Directed,

Honorable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, Lancaster.

Capt. Andrew Porter to V. B. Bryan, 1778.

Camp Artillery Park,
Valley Forge, June 2d, 1778.

Sr

By Mr. James McClure, my Capt. Lieut., I, in conjunction with my other officers, have sent a Petition to the Executive Council, Requisting to be allowed the same Privileges of Drawing Cloathing, &c., out of the State Stores, that other Troops Raised in this State have. I hope that our Request will appear Reasonable, & meet with your friendly assistance.

As Officers are in Honor bound to pay a strict attention to Camp Duty, they have it not in their Power to procure the Necessary Cloathing, to appear neat or genteel, & more especially now, at a time when they are so scarce.

If we are not a part of the Quota of this State, yet we consider ourselves belonging to it; as we have lived here, & our Company Raised in it, we have not these Privileges in any other State, nor can we expect it.

My best compliments to Mrs. Bryan, Ms. Sally, Mastrs Sammy, Frank, George, & the Rest of your Family.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient
& very Humble Servt.
ANDREW PORTER, Capt. Artily.

Directed,
The Honorable George Bryan, Esqr., V. Prst., Lancaster.
Favoured ℔ Capt. Jas. McClure.

John Harris to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Paxton, June 3d, 1778.

Sir,

I have Rec'd several letters from Collo[l] Hunter lately, mentioning the Distrest situation of N°thumberland Coty, &c., it appears absolutely necessary that some Person should Receive, Store, provide & forward any Stores the Publick may order up the Susquehanna, Juniata, &c., during the present Indian Warr; a Quantity of flour is wanted, not a Cask or Bag to put it in; the inhabitants are leaving s[d] county in Great numbers. I pity my Bleeding Country, & am willing to assist the supplying the County of N'thumberland by any

means in my power, or forward any Article up the different branches of this River, from (time to time.) I am as Good a judge of the Navigation, in Either Boat or Canoe, on our River, as can be found. I Expect to send up a Quantity of Stores to the lead mines, up Juniata, at Water street, as soon as I Receive a letter from Mr. Roberdeau, w^ch^ I hourly Expect, the present flood, to convey by water shou'd not be lost, as perhaps no other may happen till next fall; the Q^r^ Master can furnish provisions for Boatmen or any Necessary Escorts, &c., if the Inhabitants in their fright are suffer'd to move off as they are doing, & assistance not soon sent up the Crops will be lost in many frontier places, that may be saved by their Geting timely aid from the Publick; a Quantity of Arms, some powder & lead, is here for N^o^thumberland Cot'y, which I Expect will be forwarded To morrow; theres Two Good Store houses at my Dwelling plantation, Exclusive of a Sellar 50 feet by 40, under my Dwelling house, soe that there's plenty of Store Room for the public use, (if wanted); there's a Great concourse of Publick Waggons, &c., with Stores on the Reading Road, too few flatts at the ferrys here, & what there is will not be properly attended, that the publick may suffer for want of a few men employ'd by the publick (to assist in my opinion.) I have Rented my Tavern, ferry, &c., & am at leisure to assist the Transporting Stores, &c., up the Susquehannah, as offer'd, if proper Instructions is sent me. You'l please to write me by the Bearer, Mr. Whitsall, if you judge it necessary.

I am, Sir, with the greatest esteem,

your most Obed^t^ &

most Humble Serv^t^.

JOHN HARRIS.

P. S. Excuse haste & Blunders.

J. H.

Col. James Morgan to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Reading, June 3d, 1778.

D^r^ Sir,

I have been looking over the News papers, and am surprised that I dont find my unworthy old Lieu^t^ Col, John Chavolear in the list, he has, beyond a doubt, been active against us. There is a report here that the English have evacuated Philad^a^; it is beyond a doubt that John Potts and Samuel Shewmaker Embarked on Sunday evening, but they don't know themselves where they are bound—poor divels, they think any where better than to face their injured coun-

trymen. Thomas & Sam'l Potts are on their way to Lancaster to solicit, I suppose, for their brother David.

I am, D. Sir, your
most obed^{t} Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, Jr.

Directed,
To Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., at Lancaster.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, 3d June, 1778.

Sir,

I was favoured with your Letter of the 27th* of May past, inclosing a Copy of the authority to call on William Henry, Esquire, of this place, for 100 rifled Guns. These had been received & forwarded to Carlisle & Augusta. They proved a very insufficient supply. The frontier is extensive, & the rifles had been much drained from the inhabitants by the levying of Troops thus armed, & otherwise. Whilst our Smiths have been forging Musquets, as most useful for the Service, that was hitherto in view; meanwhile, the manufacture of the Guns most useful in the woods, & against Savages has been less attended to. Council feel themselves embarrased with requests for suitable Arms, which they cannot satisfy.—Above 100 Musquetts are gone & going for Northumberland & Cumberland, for the defence of houses & Stockades. But the supply of Ammunition lately granted prooves insufficient for four Counties. Mr. Carothers, of Cumberland, says of the fourth part allotted to him, "the Quota of this County I have sent to the frontiers, part to Connechocheague & the path Valley, & part to Kashicoquillas, but the number of men obliged to be under Arms in this last place, make the quantity to each man very trifling, & many have none. I have given strict charge against waste of the Ammunition." As the arrival of aid from Camp depends, it seems, on the departure of Gen'l Clinton, out of this State, it is absolutely necessary that the inhabitants be effectually enabled to make defence, lest the settlements break up, & depopulation without limit ensue. I therefore wish the board would consider the case of these people, & extend their issue of ammunition immediately.

I am, Sir,
Your most obed^{t}
& very hum. Serv^{t}.
G. B., Vice Prest.

Timothy Pickering, Junr., Esqr., at York.

* See page 556.

Council to Freeholders of Bedford County, 1778.

To the Freeholders of Bedford County.

If the freeholders of any Township have chosen proper persons for to be commissioned as Justices of the Peace, it would be of great use to send down returns to Council of the Names signed by the Judges of such Elections. But in case they have neglected to meet & chuse on the day heretofore appointed, then let another day be fixed on, & an Election be holden for this purpose, & on a return by the Judges, Council will think themselves well able to issue Commissions, seeing they are by the Constitution to Supply all Vacancies, & in this mode they would act fully up to the Letter & Spirit of the Constitution.

Lancaster, 4th June, 1778.

Council to Delegates in Congress, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, June 4th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The defenceless and distressed situation of the western parts of this State, has been repeatedly mentioned to the Board of War by this Council, but the Supplies of ammunition and arms have been so very scanty, that the people are greatly afraid they will be found insufficient for their defence.

The importance of the object has induced Mr. Smith and Mr. Scott, two members of the Council, to exert their endeavours in a personal application for further and more effectual assistance, without which it is feared great part of the frontiers, and especially the county of Northumberland, will fly before the enemy. It is but too probable that provisions will be greatly wanted in that country, if any great number of people should leave their homes and take Shelter in small forts.

You, Gentlemen, will Serve the interest of our Country by giving your assistance in forwarding this business, and relieve the people now on the frontiers from the most anxious fear and distress, we therefore confide in your immediate attention to every necessary measure for securing the people, and if possible, quieting their minds.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 4th, 1778.

Whereas, by a change of circumstances in the commerce of these States, the regulation of prices lately recommended by Congress may be necessary, and the measure not being yet adopted by all the States, therefore

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures of the several States that have adopted it, to suspend or repeal their laws made for that purpose.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 4th, 1778.

The Board of War having represented the expediency of appointing Commissioners to meet the Indians at fort Pitt, & to attend the treaty proposed by the late Commissioners,

Resolved, That three Commissioners be appointed for the purpose of holding a treaty with the Delaware, Shawanese, and other Indians, who may assemble at fort Pitt, on the twenty third day of July next.

Resolved, That the Governor & Council of the State of Virginia, be requested & authorised to appoint two gentlemen, and the executive power of the State of Pennsylvania to appoint one gentleman, of suitable characters, for the purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That Congress will make an adequate allowance for the Services and expences of the said commissioners.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 5th, 1778.

Resolved, That should the City of Philadelphia be evacuated by the enemy, it will be expedient and proper for the Commander in Chief to take effectual care that no insult, plunder or injury of any kind, may be offered to the inhabitants of the said City. That, in order to prevent publick or private injury from the operations of ill disposed persons, the General be directed to take early and proper

care to prevent the removal, transfer or Sale of any goods, Wares or Merchandize, in the possession of the inhabitants of the said City, until the property of the same shall be ascertained by a joint Committee, consisting of persons appointed by Congress, and of persons appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsilvania, to wit, so far as to determine whether any or what part thereof may belong to the King of Great Britain or any of his Subjects.

D^r Sir,

I write at a publick Table, much embarrassed, to hand you the above Copy of a Resolution of Congress.

I am, very respectfully,

D^r Sir, y^r most ob^t hum. Serv^t.

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

P. S. My design is that you may cast about & be in readiness to appoint proper persons.

Brig. Gen. Lacey to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Doyls Town, June 5th, 1778.

Sir,

Since Gen. Potter left this Quarter Col. Fre^d Watts from Cumberland County has Commanded the Militia, I have been with him occasionally—he & the Militia is at present near this place, setling with the Pay Master—on Sunday next the whole are free, except a few from Bucks, and some from Cumberland, who were a few Days behind in marching, the whole to be left will not exceed thirty men. Major McCammon with a small scout of ten men fell in with a gang of marketmen & Vagabonds from the Enemy, Last Saturday Evening, the Major with his little tho' Brave party, made Twenty five of them Prisoners, among which nine were armed, the whole are sent to Easton Goal for Confinement, the Poltroons had cocked their firelocks, but Being Consious of their Guilt, and struck with the Black and infernal Errand they were on; threw them down and beged for mercy, part of the gang saved themselves by a speedy flight back to the Enemy.

Every account from the City seams to Coroborate that the enemy are preparing to evacuate it.

If Council has ordered any militia into the field, I think it necessary they should be hastned forward with all Expedition, I should be glad

to know what number are Coming, as armes &c., may be provided accordingly.

I am Sir, with

Respect your Honour's

most obd Humble Servant,

JOHN LACEY, jr., B. G.

Directed,

On public service

The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President to the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

℔ favour of }
Col. Smith. }

Letter B. Gen. Lacey to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Doyls Town, June 5th, 1778.

Sir.

Annexed I have sent you the Judgment, &c., of two Court Martials, which I beg the favour of you to forward to the Printer to be inserted in the Publick Papers.

I most sincearly Condole with you for the Loss of our Worthy President. Accounts are Hourly Coming from the Enemy that they are just going to Evacuate the City, should the accounts be true, and they should leave it, I should have grate pleasure in meeting you in that place. I have no news to send you only that the Militia leaves this post naket by the expiration of their times and none yet appears to Replace them.

I remain Sir, with

the greatest Respect your

most obdt humble Servt,

JOHN LACEY, B. G.

Directed,

On public Service.

Colonel Timothy Matlack, Esq., Lancaster.

℔ favour of }
Col. Smith. }

Proceedings of Court Martial, 1778.

Camp, Philad^a County.

Captain Jacob Waggoner, of Northampton County Militia, was tryed by a Court Martial, held in General Lacey's Brigade, of Pennsylvania militia of which Col. Sidman was President, and found guilty of going to sleep, when officer of the Provost—& leting his guard go to sleep also; and suffering a trator to his Country under sentence of death, to make his escape from under their care—the Court do adjudge Capt. Waggoner to be Cashiered, and discharged the service with Infamy.

The General approves the Judgment of the Court, and orders Captain Waggoner, to leave the Regiment to-morrow morning, and not to be seen in it again in the Character of an officer, on pain of further punishment.

Camp, Bucks County, 1778.

Lieut. William Neilson, of Cumberland County Militia, was tryed by a Court martial, held by order of General Lacey, of which Col. Abr. Smith was President; and found guilty of disobediance of orders in not firing on the Enemy, nor giving the Alarm, when he met them with his party two miles from camp on the morning of the first of May, near the Billet. The Court do adjudge Lieut. Nielson to be Cashiered.

The Gen. approves the Centence of the Court, and orders Lieut. Nielson to quit the Regiment immediately. He hopes the scandal and infamy justly inflicted on these officers may be a warning to all others, not to fall into the same Dilemma.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, June 5th, 2778.

Sir,

An express has delivered us your letter of the 3d instant. We formerly assigned the reasons of the smallness of our order for arms & ammunition. The same reasons still continue. Nevertheless, at your pressing request we inclose you an additional order for 1000lb of lead, & 500lb of powder, & 500 musket & rifle flints.

Mr. Carithers lieuteuant of Cumberland county says "he has given striet charge against waste of ammunition"—Be assured, Sir, this will not save it. Even in the regular army such an order would not be sufficient with every man. 'Tis difficult we confess effectually to

guard against waste. But perhaps if every man, when he receives ammunition, were obliged to give a receipt for it, & to account afterwards for the expenditure, and they at regular periods (as once a week) were called to render such an account, it might have a good effect.

I am Sir, your
most obed^{t} Servant,
TIM. PICKERING jun'r.,
By order of the Board.

P. S. After writing the above we found the bearer of your letter (Arthur Buchanan) expected to receive the order for ammunition & proceed immediately to Carlisle. We have therefore given him an order for Mr. Carithers to receive the whole quantity of ammunition mentioned & dispose of the same, as you shall direct, after delivering Mr. Buchanan such part thereof as his necessity immediately demands.

Directed,

On public Service,
The Hon^{ble} George Bryan, Esq., Lancaster.

Col. Andrew Boyd to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Newlin, Chester County, 6th June, 1778.

Sir,

The Bearer, Mr. Joseph Luckey, was, on the night of the 2^{d} of this Ins^{t}, taken out of his house by a surtain James Fitzpatrick, Mordecai Dougherty, and others, who had before carryd off Peter Burgandine and a number of horses to the Enemy. I have made the most diligent search after these bad men and their accomplices, but without any success, they being secreted and supported with provision by the Inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Townships. I have taken sum on suspicion, but the civil Majastrate cood not obtain sufficient evident to commit them to confinement, but am in expectation of taking some whose crimes will be more evident.

I have advertised two hundred Dollars for the taking of Fitzpatrick, hopeing that the Virtue of money might induce some of his friends to betray him. I thought it might be agreeable to Counsil to send Mr. Luckey to wait on you, who can give you a more particular account.

Colonel Wilson's and my District of militia was ordered to march the 1st of this Inst., and out of the two Classes of the two Batalions they have not marched more than half the number that Counsil

ordered on this Command, by which I am not able to proceed as low down in this County as apears necesary, nor divide in as many party's as necesary. Colonel Smith apprehending that they two Batalion wo'd be suficient for this party did not order any out of his part of the County. I have not learnd what number has marchd from his quarter to Camp. The militia is much broken by the number of Wagoners now in the service.

Wod beg the favor of you Sir, to send me a Coppy of William Harper's Deposition, as I dont remember the difirent persons there accused.

I have the honour
to be your honors
Very Humᵉ Servᵗ,
ANDW. BOYD, S. Lt.

Directed,

His Honor the Vice President, Lancaster.

P. Lieut Joseph Luckey.

GENERAL ROBERDEAU TO SECRETARY MATLACK, 1778.

York, June 6th, 1778.

Sir,

If your orders are positive for returning the Books borrowed they must be complied with, but if otherwise they will be retained, as they will be useful in a very little time in determining a point on the same subject they were called for; therefore I shall wait your answer, as these books cannot be procured, as I know, any where else at present. My Sisters acknowledge your polite notice, and hope with me to congratulate you shortly in regaining our Capital.

I am respectfully Sir,
yr most obt humbl Sert,
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.*

P. S. If possible let Books remain, of which care shall be taken. Desire Mr. Foulke to buy me a few quires of good paper.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, (Reced. 11 June, 1778.—T. M.,) Lancaster.

Favored by Mr. Scott.

* See Vol. VI., pp. 754, 757.

General Roberdeau to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

York, June, 6th, 1778.

Sir,

The Delegates of this State are honored with the commands of Council respecting a supply of money for paying of Clothing, and the State of the Frontiers; these, together with the petition of some of the Inhabitants of Northumberland, were duly laid before Congress, *and without a word of debate* referred, the former to the Treasury, the latter to the board of War, with an order to confer with the Gentlemen who were Bearers of the petition. I expect a favorable Issue to this Business on Monday.

Two Letters, one from Lord Howe, the other from Gen[l] Clinton, *to Congress*, with the three Acts of Parliament which are the Subjects of publick speculation, were under consideration on this day, and a short answer given to the Letters. A copy is prohibited, as indelicate, until the Letter get to hand; in substance it refers to the resolves of Congress on two Bills circulated substantially the same as two of the above: that when the King shall be *seriously* disposed to peace, Congress will be ready to put an End to the cruel, unprovoked war waged against America, on Terms honorable to our Nation, for the Interest of our Constituents, and with a sacred regard to Treaties.

My acco[ts] exhibited to the Assembly when last in Lancaster refers to a debit of which I was not then possessed paid Capt. Piper, who guarded Wm. Todd to Lancaster, for his Expences, which is now before me in a proper entry of £6, 11, 3. If that Sum could be added, and the whole remitted by you on the order in the hands of Mrs. Smith, it would be of great service, as my late engagement in the Lead works has proved a moth to my circulating Cash and oblige me make free with a friend in borrowing; I hope to congratulate you soon on regaining our Capital. Some step will be taken by Congress for securing property until a deliberate discrimination can be made, in which a due regard to the prerogative of the State will be attended to.

I am with respectful

salutation to Council, Sir,

Y[r] most ob[t] & very hum[e] Serv[t],

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

On Public Service.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Stote of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Favoured by Mr. Scott.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 6, 1778.

Resolved, That the Resolution of Congress of the 2d of June, relative to the Subsistance Money to be allowed to Officers in the Continental Service, be extended to all Militia or other Troops which may from time to time be called into the Continental Service, or which may be raised in pursuance of a special Resolution of Congress.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 8th, 1778.

Whereas the exportation of provisions from these States hath occasioned much difficulty in procuring supplies for our Armies; and, by the capture of vessels concerned in such exportation, the Armies of the enemy have been freed from distresses, that would have greatly embarrased their operations; And, whereas, for the easy supply of our Armies, & to embarrass & distress the enemy the ensuing campaign, it is absolutely necessary an embargo should be immediately laid to prohibit such exportations; and as, from the distance of the States from Congress, and the different periods of of assembling their Legislatures, the good end of such embargo would be wholly frustrated, should Congress not proceed to impose the embargo; therefore Resolved, That an embargo be, and it hereby is laid, to prohibit the exportation of wheat, flour, rye, indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock & other provisions from any of these United States, from and after the tenth day of June instant, until the fifteenth day of November next, unless sooner revoked by Congress. Provided that this embargo shall not be construed to prevent the taking on board such provisions as shall be necessary for the stores only of any ships or vessels of war, or others trading to and from these States.

Resolved: That it be earnestly recommended to the respective States to take the most effectual measures for carrying the foregoing resolution into immediate execution.

Extract from the minutes

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* From a printed handbill.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, June 8, 1778.

Resolved: That one company of foot be raised in the county o Northumberland, in the state of Pennsylvania, for its immediat defence, and the assistance of the inhabitants of the neighbouring counties, so far as it shall be in their power, against the Indians an other enemies, who may infest the same, but not to be marched fron these frontiers without their own Consent.

That this Company consist of one captain, one captain lieutenant two lieutenants and one ensign, five serjeants, five corporals an eighty-five privates, and continue in service for six Months from th time of their inlistment, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

That the President and council of the state of Pennsylvania b empowered to issue warrants to suitable persons for Officers to inlis the company aforesaid, and to grant a commission to such one a shall inlist nineteen Men.

That the same pay, rations and subsistance money be allowed thi company as to officers of the like rank, & soldiers in the continenta army.

That the commissary general of purchases, or his deputy, be directe to contract with a suitable person to supply this Company wit provisions.

That each man provide himself with cloaths & with a blanket.

That eight dollars be allowed to each man who shall furnish him self with a good rifle and accoutrements.

That the lieutenant, or in his absence the sub lieutenant of North umberland, be empowered and desired to superintend the said com pany, give orders relative to its operations, and in case of failure i duty of any of the officers, to report the same to the board of war

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, June 8, 1778.*

Sir,

Your letter to the delegates of Pennsylvania, in Congress, date , with the petition of divers inhabitants of Northum berland County, praying for some means of defence to be afforde them against the Indians, were referred to this board, who, afte considering the same, & conferring with the two gentlemen wh presented the petition, agreed on a report to Congress for raising

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 509.

company of one hundred men, agreeably to the resolve passed thereon, which is inclosed. The large allowance to every man who shall find his arms & accoutrements, it is hoped will go far towards a supply of the company.

You observe in your letter to your delegates, that frequent applications have been made to this board for arms & amunition. That all these demands were not amply supplied, arose from the scantiness of the public stores, particularly of arms & lead. The same difficulty still continues. It is certainly of the first importance to arm the Continental troops. Every assistance, compatible with this main object, requisite for the security of the frontiers, we have been, and always shall be ready to afford. We wish it were possible to prevent the misapplication of such aid. Of the amunition issued by the board, last winter, to some of the western counties, it was confessed that the greater part was probably wasted. A more recent instance of waste happened at Sinking Spring Valley. Gen'l Roberdeau ordered a certain number of cartridges to be distributed to the people; but when the Indians committed some depredations not far distant, & the men were to turn out, scarcely a cartridge was found in their possession. It would be a most valuable acquisition could you devise some measure to put a stop to this fatal mischief.

As the Lieutenant of Northumberland county is authorized to superintend the company, it may be proper for you to instruct him to satisfy himself, by an examination or muster of the men who shall be inlisted, that they are able bodied, & fit for the duty for which they are raised.

Pay will be issued upon an application to the board of war, upon a muster roll of the company, certified by the Lieutenants, or, in his absence, the Sub-Lieutenants of that county.

I am sir, respectfully,
your most obed^{t} servant,
TIM. PICKERING, Junr.
By order of the Board.

Directed,

On publick service. To The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Council of Pennsylvania. War Office.

Capt. White Eyes &c., to Col. George Morgan, 1778.

Capt^{s} White Eyes and John Killbuck, &c^{a}., Message to Col. Geo. Morgan. Dated at Coochocking, 9 June, 1778.

Brother Taiminend,

We are exceeding glad you sent the Messengers to us; all the Counsellors and Young Men, and all our People thank you for send-

ing us the agreeable & rejoicing News that the Time cometh nigher when these Clouds, which arose over our Heads, will now soon be dispersed & seen no more; we are glad to hear your voice because you tell us to be strong, and to hold fast to the Chain of Friendship, & so we will do till all these dark clouds are passed over & the sky is quite clear again.

Brother,

You desire to hear what News we have heard here, therefore I will let you know what the Head Chief of the Chipaways, from their farthest Towns over the Lakes, hath acquainted me of; that he came last spring to Detroit, & meeting there with some of his young Men, who had been to war with the Wiandots, he reproved them for their folly that they had joined in taking up the Hatchet against the Virginians. The Chief sent the following Message to me:—Grand father take Pity on your Grand Children, for I depend only in you, therefore, what you know is good for your Grand children, tell me, and what you shall advise me I will do. Now, Grand father, our Lord and Maker has put us here, I now take all the Briars & Thorns out of y^e^ road which is between us, that our Children may pass & repass, quiet and peaceably, when they go to see one another. So far his speech.

Brother,

When I went at the Fort last you desired me to speak to the Wiandots, which I have done, & I found them now more disposed to listen to me than they have been hitherto. I therefore persuade myself that if you would speak to them in a friendly Manner, they would hearken to you.

Brother,

You desired to know who of the Nations would take hold of our chain of Friendship. I now acquaint you that I shall go to Detroit in about nine Days, where the Gov^r^ hath called all his children to meet; when I return from thence I shall come to you, & inform you of all what I have heard & seen, & then I also shall know who will go with me to Fort Pitt. The Shawanese desired me to let you know that they will join their Grandfather in coming to the Treaty at the appointed Time. Some of them will go with me to Detroit, & Messengers also will go the Unami river, where the rest off their People are, to invite them likewise.

Brother,

Be assured of our Love & Friendship, for you have made our Hearts glad & strong again.

Indorsement,

Copy, Capt^s^ White Eyes & John Killbucks' Message to Col. Geo. Morgan. Dated Coochocking, June 9^th^, 1778.

President of Congress to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

York town, 9th June, 1778.

Honourable Sir,

You will receive within the present enclosure, five Acts of Congress, as undermentioned.

1. Of 7th May. For an Establishment of the American Army.

2. 4 June. For appointing Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Delaware, Shawanese, & other Indians, at Fort Pitt, the 23d July next.

3. 6 June. For extending to the militia subsistence, in lieu of extra Rations.

4. 8 June. For raising a Company of foot in the County of Northumberland, &c.

5. Ibid. For laying a general Embargo on certain articles of provision.

I have the honour to be,
with very great Respect,
Honourable Sir,
Your obedient & most humble servt,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

The Honorable Vice President Bryan, Pennsylvania.

Intelligence from Northumberland Co., 1778.

Munsey Farm, 10th of June, 1778.
30 Miles from Northumberland Town.

Nothing material happen'd since station'd here—rainy weather—scouts out and no Discoveries till this day—Col. Hosterman with Capt. Reynolds & a party of 13 Men set off for Antis's Mill with ammunition for that place & the Big Island; when they had got as far as Loyal Sock (five miles from this place), And had just cross'd the Creek, they heard a firing & yells, they judg'd it To be ¾ mile up the Creek, they push'd on to the firing as fast as they Cou'd, But when they came to the place where they thought the firing was, the Party supposed the Indians had seen them & gave a stroke for every man in the party, as they heard a noise resembling a stroke on a Hollow Tree several Times repeated, this noise was still further off, they went on to Thompsons about a Mile from the place they first

heard the firing, they decided to surround the House, when they arriv'd there they found the Barn on fire (it contained grain in The Sheaff), the house untouch'd, they found Thompsons powder Horn (with a Bullet hole through it) near the House, saw several mockasen & shoe tracks, but Cou'd not find Thompson, Shoefelt, or Wikoff, these three were the men at the House. Just before they came to the house they heard two death Hollo^{s} & one that they Took to be a prisoner Holloo after, after this they heard the Indians and then heard no more of them, after the party had Examin'd the house & about the field for Thompson and the rest & cou'd not find them they March'd to Lycoming. This firing at Thompsons began between 2 & 3 o'clock & lasted about ¾ of an hour, our People had a very ugly swamp to cross through which took them near a Quarter of an hour, & this depriv'd them from being up time enough to succour Thompson, they suppos'd from the yells that the Indians gave they were about 14 in number, same day Peter Smith his wife & 6 children, Wm. King's wife with 2 children, Michael Smith, (Michael Campbell & David Chambers, belonging to Capt. Reynolds Company) & —— Snodgrass & —— Hammond being 6 men, Two Women & Eight Children were going with a Wagon to Lycoming, when they were near to Loyal Sock, John Harris, (son to old Sam^{l} Harris) who had heard the whole firing met them and told them off it, and desir'd them to return, as to go forward was dangerous, But Peter Smith said that firing wou'd not stop them, Harris came here and Smith went on, Upon Harris's Information a party of 15 push'd to the Place the firing was heard, when Smith with his Wagon & party had got within ¾ of a mile of Lycoming the Indians fired at them at the first fire Snodgrass fell dead being shot through the Temple, the Indians fired on them at first two guns, then Immediately three set up the shout and advanced running to the Wagon, our men as soon as they say them (for they did not see them Till they receiv'd the 2 fires) Tree'd & return'd the fire, a little Boy & A girl made off about this time, the Indians Closed in very fast & Endeavoured to surround them, this occasion'd our men to flee as fast as they cou'd, all but Campbell, who was seen fighting at close Quarters with his Rifle and the Indians Gun was found broke to pieces, before they were out of sight of the wagon they saw the Indians attackting the women & Children with their Tomahawks, the number of Indians, Chambers thinks to be about 20, this affair began just before sun down, the boy that Escap'd pushed to Lycoming & Informed the men there of what had happen'd they went of Immediately, but mistaking the Intelligence the boy gave they went to the river, to the place the men liv'd as they Imagin'd it was the Canoe That was attack'd, in the meantime Capt. Hepburn with the party That left this came across the dead bodies of Snodgrass & another, but it being dark they cou'd not distinguish who they were, they went to Lycoming where they met the other party, they waited to the next day as it was too late to do any thing that night. June 11th, the parties went down & found

the bodies off the following person Viz., Peter Smith's wife shot through, stab'd And a knife left by her, & scalp'd, Wm. King's wife Tomahawk'd & Scalp'd, she was sitting up this morning but Lean'd on her husband when he came to her, And Expir'd Immediately, she appear'd sensible but cou'd not speak, a Little girl kill'd & scalp'd, a boy the same, Snodgrass shot through the head, Tomahawk'd & Stab'd, &c., Campbell shot in the back, Tomahawk'd, Stab'd, Scalp'd and a knife left in him, they took off his rifle but took nothing but trifles out of the Wagon; they found a coat of the Indians & a Cartridge made up of best Cartridge paper, the Indians made use of buck shot as one was sticking in the wagon & one in the arm of one the dead; as the parties that went out yesterday had not return'd & no Intelligence from them the people at Munsey And here, grew uneasy & sent off a party between 20 & 30, under Capt. Shaffer, these men when they came to the house of Thompson Examind it & all about, at length found him and Shoefelt the out side of a field among some pine grubs, Thompson was shot through the left side & through the Powder horn & scalp'd, Shoefelt was shot through the left shoulder & scalp'd, They lay but a little distance apart, they were so near Thompson when they shot him that his Jacket was Burn'd. Wikoff is suppos'd to be taken prison^{r}, he was about 16 years old, 6 guns was heard Above Ferguson's at 8 °Clock A. M.

The above is a coppy of the account sent to Col. Winter, From Col. Hosterman.*

Auditor Gen. U. S. to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Treasury Office, York Town, June 10th, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 5th instant to the Delegates of this State has been read in Congress, and referred to the Board of Treasury, who have directed me to inform your Honor that such is the state of the Finances of the United States as to render it necessary for Congress to appropriate part of the Continental Tax levied on the respective States to answer the requisition made by them for Money due from the Continent. The Board propose therefore that a sum sufficient to pay for the Cloathing be paid to you out of the first Monies collected by the Tax assessed by your Assembly, in consequence of a recommendation of Congress of the day of November, and wish to be informed of the quantity of Cloathing delivered to Mr. Mease Clothier General; and whether the residue is ready to be delivered

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 508.

to the order of Congress, or of the Board of War. I have only to add that your answer to this will serve to expedite the business.

I have the Honor

to be Sir, your

most obed. Serv^{t},

JOHN GIBSON, U. S.
Aud. Gen'l.

By Order,

(The above blank should have been filled with the (22nd).

T. M.

Directed.

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancastsr.

Pres't of Congress to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

York Town, 10 June, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Authentic Intelligence received by Congress from many quarters leave it no longer doubtful in what manner the Enemy mean to conduct their plan of conciliation.

Under delusive appearances of pacific Acts and Peace-making Commissioners, already their Military Reinforcements begin to arrive and already they have commenced the Campaign in many places with acts of cruelty & devastation.

Indian irruptions and burning houses in the moment of dispersing propositions for peace, evince the insidious designs of the Enemy and demonstrate the necessity of wisom in Council, of strength and vigour in the field. The former may be employed to distress the enemy greatly by witholding from them the provisions of America, and the latter by quickly collecting powerful armies to take advantage of their present weakness.

In duty therefore to their Constituents, Congress earnestly call upon you, Sir, and your State, to adopt the most effectual and vigorous measures for speedily reinforcing the Continental army with your quota of Troops. The present moment unimproved may be productive of most pernicious consequences, and the public saicty demands strong and united efforts.

Experience hath shown that the Marine force of our enemies enables them to secure for the support of their Armies, almost the whole of our exported provisions, and therefore Congress impressed with the

necessity of preventing the supplies derived to our foes from this source, and desirous of supplying the armies of the United States, have upon mature deliberation, laid an Embargo on provisions of all kinds, and they earnestly request the vigorous exercise of the powers of your State to carry into effectual execution this most necessary measure.

I am with great respect
Honorable Sir, your
most obed^{t} Serv^{t},
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President, Pennsylvania.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, June 10th, 1778.

Sir,

In acknowledging your favour of the 8th* Instant, I cannot help observing, that the mode of nominating commissioned officers for the Company to be raised in Northumberland, will not be likely to obtain the best officers, & for combating Indians, we apprehend that great care should be used in the Choice. The prudence of Mr. Hunter, the Lieutenant, will, I trust, be able to obviate inconveniences. It is hoped, that a proper number of the disturbed Settlers will enlist readily to stay on the frontier for six months.

The Board of War having charged our people with waste of powder & ball formerly distributed, Council has been led into a mistake by the general mode of Expression used. In warning the Lieutenants of Cumberland & Northumberland ag^{t} waste, Council have made an express charge of waste committed by the People of the Western Counties. I now see, by a Memorandum, delivered at York to the Men whom the Inhabitants of Northumberland sent to Congress, (they say by your board,) that our back Inhabitants never received any till the quantities lately ordered to the Lieutenant of Cumberland. Two former parcells only appear—The first furnished to the Virginia Intruders in Westmoreland, the other to the Connecticut Trespassers at Wioming—people who have no relation to us,

* See page 586.

except that of wrongful possession of our Territory. Waste of this sort is however very likely, & whilst we state this matter in justice to the innocent, Care shall be taken, in this respect, as far as may be.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed. Servt.

G. B., Vice Presidt.

To the Board of War.

Council to Brig. Gen. Lacey, 1778.

In Council,

Lancaster, June 10, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of the 5th instant* has been read in Council. The imperfect returns made of the Militia in the Field, and the time of their services respectively, has laid the Council under very great difficulties in ordering out the proper releifs. From the reports of the Sub Lieutenants of Chester county there are very few to be expected from that county, and a delay, from some misapprehension of the order, has happened in the county of Philadelphia—Two classes from thence will probably now come out. Perhaps you may find advantage in conferring with, or writing to Colo Archd Thomson on this subject.

The strong probability of the enemy leaving the State suddenly, and the extreme disadvantage to the farmer to be called into the Field at this season, have induced the Council to hesitate on this subject. A few days will probably ascertain how this matter will be, and orders will be given accordingly.

The stoping of the Supplies to the enemy is of very considerable importance, and ought to be continued as far as it is practicable.

To Brigadr General Lacey.

* See page 579, 580.

Council to Samuel Potts, 1778.

Lancaster, June 11, 1778.

Sir,

Your brother, the Doctor, undertaking to forward this, affords me the first opportunity of giving you the doctrine of surety in cases of treason, as it seems at present to be understood. Justices of the Peace cannot take bail in this case, but must commit to the common Gaol of the county. Whilst the Supreme Court is sitting *the Judges* may take bail, at other times *any one* of them has that power. Where the evidence is full it is to be used with great caution, but where the charge is doubtful, it is held to be his duty to take bail.

Should the enemy leave this city, it is probable that one of the Judges will immediately go into it. From these circumstances you will see what measures are most proper in the case you have under consideration. Altho there is little reason to doubt of the doctors care in sending you this, I wish you to give me notice by a line of your having received it.

From your Fnd.

& h'mble Servant.

To Sam'l Potts, Esq^r., Pottsgrove.

Brig. Gen. Lacey to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Bucks, June 11th, 1778.

Sir,

I am Sorry to inform you this Country is left intirely open to the insults and ravages of the Tories and Vagabonds from the Enemy, by the Discharge of the Militia, whose times are all Expired, except about a Dozen from Philad^a County. Parties of these Malignant Villans Comes into Makefield, Newtown & Northampton Townships, and Steals all the good Horses they Can find and takes them to Philad^a.

News continues coming of the Enemy's preparation for leaving the City, but I am Ready to fear it is only a manœuvre.

I have ordered all the Armes some distance back into the Country for safety, if any more Militia is coming I should be glad to know it, as I may have the Armes & Necessaries provided for them on their arrival.

I am, Sir, with Respect,

Your Honours most

Humb. Serv^t.

JOHN LACEY, B. G.

P. S. More officers are sent from Philad[a] county than the resolv of Congress intitles to pay in the Militia. I would be glad to kno weither I have any thing to do with them, either in the Dischargin or Leting them continue as they are or not.

Directed,

The Honourable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Ex cutive Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favr Major McCammain.

Council to Col. J. Boyd, 1778.

Lancaster, June 12, 1778.

Sir,

Your vigilance in attempting to arrest James Fitzpatrick & Mord Dougherty, the Traitors, who seized Mr. Lucky, is approved b Council, as well as your conduct in offering a reward to any perso who shall apprehend them. This engagement the Council wil cheerfully fulfil, if it proves effectual for the arrest of such danger ous men.

T. M.

Enclosed is Copy of the deposition you mention.

To Col[l] J. Boyd.

Examination of Garret Vansant, 1778.

Examination of Gerret Vanzant, junr., of Middletown, in Buck county, aged between 15 & 16 years who being duly sworn, dotl declare and say, that about eight or nine o'Clock in the even ing of the eighth instant, three men, whom he took to be Englisl Officers, came to the House of the Widdow Brown, in Bristol town ship, upon which this Deponent opened a back door and went of home; that he found the afores[d] three men there before him, wh order this deponent to feed their Horses, and then compelled him t let them into the House, which he did; they then ordered him t kindle a fire and light a candle, they then directed him to de liver[r] up the Meat and Chese belonging to the House, to gear u the Waggon, that not finding any Horses belonging to the Hous they made him assist them in putting their own Horses to the Wag gon, they then tyed him on the Waggon with the meat and Chese & drove them near to Bristol, when they untied him and ordered him to go home, which he did, and going between twenty and thirty yards a Gun was fired at him from the Waggon; that when he left

he Waggon it was begining to be light, and that he knew one of he men to be Edward Welstead, of Trenton, in Newjersey. This Deponent further sayeth, that in the evening of Wednesday, the enth instant, as he was returning with his brother, John Vanzant, rom Trenton, with the Waggon and some of the things which had een taken from them on Monday night, they were attacked by a arty of armed men in the road, about a mile & an half from Trenton erry, who pulled him, this Deponent, out of the Waggon, stripped ff his Coat, Waistcoat, Hat and pinchback Watch, and silver shoe-uckles, in the mean time beating him very much, but hearing a rigade of Forage Waggons coming near, they ordered this Deponent hold the Horses which they had taken from the Waggon, untill ey should return, otherwise they would shoot him, upon which ey retired into the bushes, and this Deponent made his escape with e Horses.

GARRET VANSANT.

worn and subscribed before me,
13th June, 1778.

HENRY WYNKOOP.

EXAMINATION OF ENSIGN JOHN VANSANT, 1778.

Examination of Ensign John Vanzant, son of Gerret Vanzant, e elder, of Middletown, in Bucks county, who being duly sworn fore me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace for s[d] unty, Doth declare and say, that in the night of Monday, y[e] 8th stant, he thinks about midnight, he was wakened by the noise of king below stairs, upon which he got up, and looking out of a indow saw three Horses with Holsters, and a man standing by m with a naked sword in his hand, he then taking them to be fugees leaped out of a Window, ran to the stable, took the ly Horse there, went into the feild and drove the rest of the rses into a bye place, and then alarmed the Associators in the ighbourhood, and returned home, when he found his brother Ger- missing, together with the Waggon, Gears, about five hundred ight of Bacon and Beef, about fifty weight of Chese, two bridles, i a womans Cap belonging to his mother; that he tracked the aggon to Bristol, where he was informed that the men were Capt. seph Clon, Capt. — Pancas, and Edward Welstead, of Trenton, Newjersey; that he pursued them, and by the intercession of n. Dickenson and Col. Kirkbride he procured the Waggon, Gears, ne of the Meat & about ten pound of the Chese, but was detained s[d] Clon, Pancas and Welstead, until after sunset; then crossing

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 512.

the Ferry, that at the distance of about a mile and an half he was a
tacked in the Road by a party of armed men, who pulled him out of th
Waggon and struck him sundry times, and then stripped off his Coat
Waistcoat, Breeches, Shirt and Shoes, with a pair of silver shoe buckle
& knee buckles, and about three or four Dollars in paper money, his Pas
Certificate of Allegiance, and about two yards of Ribbon, and the
attempted to tye him when he ran; heard them say shoot him, an
saw a light like the flash of Gun, and made his escape to some
the Militia in the Neighbourhood, who went out with this Deponen
and seeing some men runing across a feild they pursued them to th
River, where they came up with them and found his Brother's H
in possession of one of them, this Deponent then charged them wit
the Robbery, whereupon they gave him part of his money and h
Certificate; that the people who attended him told him they kne
them, and went with him to the Tavern and give him their names i
writing, as follows, viz: John Stilwel, Hugh Russel, Rese Peter
Elija Yard, George Beatty, Joseph Lankey and William Lattimor
he was likewise informed that all the afores[d] persons, except on
or two belonged to the afores[d] Capt. Clon's Company of Militia A
tillery in Trenton, of Newjersey.

JOHN VANSANT.

Taken and subscribed before me,
13th June, 1778.

HENRY WYNKOOP.

COM'R JOHN HAZELWOOD TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Trenton, June 13th, 1778.

Your Excelency, I am told by letter from Capt. Montgomery,
displeased that the paymaster is not Come up to pay the People.
told the Navy Board that your Excelincy requested that he mig
go up when I arived at this place, & likewise spoke to the pay m
ter to the same purpose, he gave me to understand That he shou
go soon, & as he is under the command of the Navy Board & n
me, I left it with them to dispatch him off. I should be glad if yo
Excelincy could spare 20 or 30 of the men, with two Lieu[ts], to cor
down here, to assist in geting Two of the Galleys & a Sloop up, th
lays in a Daingerous way if thay are not got up soon; we Have g
two up allready with what Captains we Have here, but cannot ma
age to get up the others without more assistance; & if your Ex
lency thinks Proper, when those men comes down, we will get
the Galleys up & Clean them out, & can have them Ready to Si

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 612.

should the Enemy come up this way again; but I think there's but little dainger of it, as its Thought they will soon take their leave of Us. I wish I had it in my Power to give them a scowering Before they get out of the river, & I am certen had we but our Fleet on Floate & manned, they would be obliged to leave some more of them behind. Here is nothing new to Inform your Excelency of, for all our News comes from your way, & having not to add,

Am your Excᵐ most

Obᵗ Humˈbe Servᵗ.

JOHN HAZELWOOD, C. P. F.

Lieut. Saml. Hunter to V. P. Bryan.

Fort Augusta, June 14th, 1778.

Sir,

Your favour 10th June I have received, and shall pay proper respect to its contents. As to the number of men to be raised, there will be no difficulty.

The 10th Instᵗ, between Loyal Sock and Lycoming, between thirty & forty miles from this, on the West Branch of Susquehannah, the savages killed, scalped &c., 4 men, 2 women, a boy and a girl, & five we have missing. This affair hath hurt us much. Our communication (we formerly had) between Antis's mill & the Big Island, is now cut off. Inclosed, I send you the petition of a number of the distress'd Inhabitants of the West branch of Susquehannah. Samuel Harris, that will hand this to you, can inform you of any particulars.

Your obedᵗ Humbˡᵉ Servᵗ,

SAMᴵ HUNTER, Lieuᵗ.

Directed.

The Honᵇˡᵉ George Bryan.

Council to Gov. Livingston, 1778.

Lancaster, June 15, 1778.

Sir,

A representation has been made to this Council of a most audacious robbery committed on the property of Garret Vansant, of Middletown township, in the County of Bucks, in this state, by persons belonging to the state of New Jersey; and a great abuse upon the person of Garret Vansant, junior, and plundering of effects in his possession by persons probably connected with the party who com-

mitted the robbery. It is said that these are not among the first attempts of this kind. Henry Wynkoop, Esq^{r}, will forward to you the depositions* taken before him, and pointing out the persons concerned in this robbery and abuse. Your Excellency's known attachment to the interest and welfare of the United States of North America and regard to public justice, leave not the least room to doubt but that you will direct effectual measures to be taken to secure the offenders and deliver them over to this state for trial. We are sorry to find ourselves under the necessity of troubling your Excellency, at so critical a time, with an application of this kind; but the duty which we owe to the good people of this state will not permit us to pass by or delay it.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Governor Livingston, West New Jersey.

Council to Henry Wynkoop, 1778.

Lancaster, 15th June, 1778.

Sir,

Your favour of the 13th Ins^{t} has been considered in Council. They concur with you in the necessity of demanding of Governor Livingston the persons accused of robbing M^{r} Vansant the elder, & also those who plundered & abused Ensign Vansant. Such practices ought not to be winked at; their tendency is confusion & anarchy. I inclose you herewith a Letter to his Excellency for that purpose. For want of full information to support a proper charge against the offenders, it was necessary to refer to you. Young Vansant does not bring home the accusation to *Welsted*, as he did not know him. The affidavits of those who told the Lad should be taken, and also the oaths of the persons who gave in the names of the men who Ensign Vansant overtook at the River. These, with every other that fixes the charge should be added, & transmitted to the authority of New Jersey. M^{r} Serjeant, our Attorney General, will, I believe, return from Easton towards friday or saturday. He will assist & direct you. M^{r} Hart, who left us yesterday, will exert himself on this occasion. Nothing should be left undone to drag to punishment such miscreants; a glorious cause is wounded by their enormities, & the Country, distracted by the villainy of our pretended friends, cannot otherwise be relieved or protected.

When these offenders can be had, it will be proper to send them for safe Custody to another Gaol than that of New Town. Easton is too near to New Jersey, perhaps. It will be best to transmit them

* See dpeositions on page 596-7—also Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 512, and 518.

hither under a strong Guard, for here they may be tried, in case the Enemy hold Philadelphia. If otherwise, they may in due time be sent back.

Directed,

To Henry Wynkoop, Esq^r^

Gen. Hand's Conference with Indians, 1778.

Fort Pitt, 17^th^ June, 1778.

Brothers, Capt. White Eyes, Capt. John Killbuck* & the wise Delawares & Shawanese at Coochockin.

I was much rejoiced when I heard the good words you spoke to me by my messengers, John Jones & Tho's Nicholas, and very glad to see two of my Shawanese Friends accompany them to this Place.

Brothers,

As you see that what I told you when we first spoke to you, comes to pass; and as you are wise Men & can perceive that the Lies told you by the Gov^r^ of Detroit, are likely to fall heavy on his own Head.

Brothers,

You tell me, that you imagine that if I spoke in a friendly Manner to the Wiandots, they would now listen to me.

Brothers,

Tho' they have been long astray, and listened only to the evil Spirit, the United States are more willing to forgive an Injury, than to avenge it; therefore if the Wiandots will immediately call in their foolish young Men, and send some of their Chiefs with you to the Treaty to be held here next Month, we will be ready to take them by the Hand & enter into friendship with them.

Brothers,

I beg you will tell this to the Wyandots & assure them that if they refuse it they will never have another opportunity.

Brothers,

You may depend, that before the waters are again frozen, there will not be an English Soldier at Detroit or Niagara, unless they are Prisoners.

Brothers,

I have not had any news from our Grand army that I can depend on, since I wrote to you last, except the arrival of a Number of French Vessels with Goods, & that many more are near at Hand.

* See page 587.

Brothers,

Every person who comes up says, that the English are making ready to go on board their Vessels at Philad'a; and that the French have taken two of the West India Islands from them, but I can't tell you this as true.

Brothers,

I desire that you may watch the Motions of Mr Lemot & the Canadians under his Command, & give me timely notice of his Movements, the Number he has with him, & where he intends to Strike; if you will appoint ten or twelve of your active young men to do this Business, they shall have two Dollars ℔ Day each, for the time you employ them, provided they give me good & timely Intelligence.

Brothers,

I ask this of you as a Mark of your Friendship. Farewell, and be assured of the good intention of the United States towards you & all friendly Nations.

Signed,

EDW. HAND.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, June 17, 1778.

Whereas many letters addressed to individuals of these United States, have been lately received from England, through the conveyance of the Enemy, and some of them which have been under the inspection of members of Congress, are found to Contain ideas injudiciously calculated to divide and delude the good people of these States.

Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the Legislative and Executive authorities of the several States, to exercise the utmost care and vigilance, and take the most effectual measures to put a stop to so dangerous and criminal correspondence.

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief and the Commander in each and every military department be, and he and they are hereby directed to carry the measure recommended in the above resolution into the most effectual execution.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

It is is recommended to the several printers in the United States, to republish the foregoing resolutions.

C. T.

Col. J. Potter to Mr. Stewart, 1778.

Kishcockquilysh, June 17, 1778.

Sir,

This Day Receving an Express from General Potars with the foloing inteligance.

A copy of a Leter from Col. Long to General Pt., which is as folowes.—Sir, 14 of this instant alarming acount from Licoman, Concerning a few inhabitance who taking their Station at Covinghavings & ware Returning to Licoman with an ascort of Militia, under the Command of Coll. Hoskman, who ware atackted By twelve indians, six of our Peopel were kiled & two Mising; there ware also the seam Day, at Layal Sock, three Men kiled that weare hunting Catel; we had some time ago an Indian prisenar who had Come Down, Seninghoning, who informs of thoes twelve Indians who did the Murder, he also informed me of Numbar who are Detarmened to com Down & Murder all that is on the East & west Branches of Sescquanaha; I intended to heave sent him Down to Col. Hunter, in order to satisfy him, but an Eavel Disposed person Belong to a lower Gorason shot him as he ware Sleaping in the gard Houce; we are also in Formed of twenty Parsones kiled on the North Brentch of the River, together with a prisinor that Mead his Easceape who gave information that the Nordring indians Are Detarmined to Distroy Both Brenches in this Mon. I Remean your humble sa., & : & :

There weare a party of Capt. Pealear's Men in the Nitany Valy this Day & Brings in an acount that the Discovered a Numbar of tracks Leading Down Logan's gap, the tracks weare quight fresh & to Apearance to be upwards of thirty in Numbar.

From yours to sarve.

Copy.

JAS. POTTER, B. G.

Dr Mr Steward, yesterday Receving theas Acounts from our fruntears, besides Divers Repourtes from Standing Stone, our Inhabitance is in greate Distress as there armes and Amunition is Deteaned By thoes men that the Armes weare sent by. I Expeck that Murder will be Don every Day in oure inhabitance. I Coulde wish that in your wisdomes Nigh Do somethin in this Mater, Excuse heast all from your frend.

ARTHUR BUCHANAN.

June 17, 1778.

Directed,

To George Stuard, Esqr.,S. L. C. C., In Heast.

General Washington to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Head q^rs, ½ after 11 A. M., June 18^th, 1778.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I was this minute advised by M^r Roberts that the Enemy evacuated the City early this morning. He was down at the Middle ferry on this side, where he received the intelligence from a number of Citizens, who were on the opposite shore. The destruction of the Bridge prevented him passing. I have not yet had any Official accounts on the subject, but there are many in corroboration of M^r Roberts's. I congratulate you very heartily on this interesting event, and have the Honor to be, in haste,

Sir,

y^r most Obed. Serv^t,

G^o WASHINGTON.

P. S. A letter from Cap^t M^cClean, dated in Philadelphia, this minute came to hand, confirming the evacuation.

Directed,

Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^re.

Governor Livingston to Vice President Bryan, 1778

Princeton, 19^th June, 1778.

Sir,

I was just now honoured with your favour of the 15^th Instant, accompanied with several Affidavits of a robberry's being committed on the Property of Gerret Vansant, of your State, by a number of men belonging to this. You may depend, Sir, upon this Government's using every necessary measure for securing the Offenders & delivering them over to your State for trial, agreeable to your request. But being all engaged in preparing for the reception of our british Visitants, who began their march last night thro' this

State, it is impossible at present to attend to the Subject matter of your Letter. I have the honour to be

With great Respect
your most Obed^{t} Serv^{t},
WIL. LIVINGSTON.*

Directed,

To The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^{r}, Vice President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

War Office, June 19, 1778.

Sir,

The bearer, John M^{c}Connell, applies to this board for arms and ammunition for a number of the inhabitants of Cumberland county. But not knowing the facts necessary to lead to a proper determination on this & such like applications, we do not chuse to issue any orders thereupon. The supreme executive council are the best judges how far and in what cases it would be proper to issue arms & ammunition to the inhabitants of the State. The lieutenants of the counties seem to be the most suitable persons to make the distributions, and to keep a regular account of the same. All requests from the executive council for military stores will be duly attended to by this board, & such issues made to their order as the public stock will admit.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
your obed^{t} Servant,
TIM. PICKERING, jun.
By order of the Board.

Directed,

(On public Service.)
To the Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^{r}, Vice President, &c., Lancaster.
War Office.

* See pages 596, 7, 9.

Proclamation of General Arnold, 1778.

By the Hon. Major General Arnold, Commander in Chief of the United States of America, in the city of Philadelphia, &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

In order to protect the persons and property of the inhabitants of this city from insult and injury, to secure the public and private stores, which the enemy may have left in the city, and to prevent the disorder and confusion naturally arising from want of government, his Excellency General Washington, in compliance with the following resolution of Congress, has thought proper to establish military law in this city and suburbs, until the civil authority of the state can resume the government thereof.

In Congress, June 4, 1778.

Resolved, That should the city of Philadelphia be evacuated by the enemy, it will be expedient and proper for the Commander in Chief to take effectual care that no insult, plunder, or injury of any kind, may be offered to the inhabitants of the said city: That, in order to prevent public or private injury from the operations of ill disposed persons, the General be directed to take early and proper care to prevent the removal, transfer, or sale of any goods, wares, or merchandize, in possession of the inhabitants of the said city, until the property of the same shall be ascertained by a Joint Committee, consisting of persons appointed by Congress, and of persons appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to wit, so far as to determine whether any or what Part thereof may belong to the king of Great Britain, or to any of his subjects.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

Copy by command of his Excellency.

ROBERT HARRISON, Sec.

In order the more effectually to carry into execution the above resolve, all persons having European, East or West India goods, iron, leather, shoes, wines, and provisions of every kind, beyond the necessary use of a private family, are ordered to make return of the same to the Town Major (at his quarters in Front-street, the fourth door from the Coffee-house,) by twelve o'clock tomorrow, specifying the quantity, and, as nearly as they can judge, the amount of the same, in order that the Quarter-Master, Commissary and Clothier Generals may contract for such goods as are wanted for the use of the army; and until permission is given by the General, there be no removal, transfer, or sale of any goods, as it will be deemed a

breach of the above resolution of Congress, and such goods will be seised and confiscated for the public use.

All persons having in their hands public stores or effects, the property of the subjects of the king of Great Britain, or their adherents, who have departed with them, are to make a like report by Monday noon next, under penalty of the confiscation of their own effects; and any persons discovering any such Concealed stores or effects will be suitably rewarded.

Any persons harbouring or concealing any officer, soldier, or other person belonging to the enemy, or any deserter from the continental army, will be severely punished, unless they make immediate discovery to some officer of the said army.

Given at head quarters, in the city of
Philadelphia, June 19, 1778.

B. ARNOLD, Major Gen.*

By his Honor's command,
DAVID S. FRANKS, Sec.

Indorsed,

Proclamation of 19th June, 1778, by Major Gen^{l} Arnold; d^{d} by the General to Major Smith & the Secretary on the 27 June, 1778.

T. M., Sec^{y}.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO VICE PRESID'T BRYAN, 1778.

York Town, 20 June, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

I had the honor of writing to you the 9th & 10th Inst.

Inclosed will be found an Act of Congress of the 17th, for preventing all correspondence between the Enemy & private Citizens of these United States.

And I take the liberty of adding four Copies of this days Gazette, which contains much Intelligence, public & Interesting.

I have the honor to be
With great Regard,
Honble. Sir,
Your most obed^{t}
& most humble Servt.,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed.

To The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President Pennsylvania.

* From printed handbill.

Benj. Stoddart to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sir,

A Detachment of 80 men of Col[l] Hartley's Reg., under my Command, arrived in Town two days ago, & has been detained ever since for the want of a wagon.

I have applied, repeatedly, to the Q[r] Master, who tells me it is not in his power to furnish one. The waggons belonging to this District being all upon Duty, & he not allowed to press. I think it my Duty to make this, my situation, known to the Hble Council. Gen[l] Washington wrote a pressing Letter to Col[l] Hartley to send his Reg[t] with all possible expedition to camp. It will not be my Fault if this order is not strictly Complied with by the Detachment under my Command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
y[r] mo. obed. serv.
BENJ. STODDART.

Directed,
The Honorable Geo. Bryan, Esq.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,
Lancaster, June 20, 1778.

Sir,

Your favour of the 19th instant,* has been read in Council, and we thank the board of war for their assurance which they give of affording the necessary supplies. We are very sensible that the quantity of ammunition already issued, is much too small a supply for our frontier counties, and we judge that, at least, five hundred weight of powder and twelve hundred weight of lead would be properly lodged in the hands of Col. John Carothers, Lieu[t] of the county of Cumberland, to be by him distributed as occasion may require.

In this distressing time it is very probable that applications will be made to you by the Lieutenants of the counties for supplies, and as the Council are now about to remove to the city of Philadelphia, we hope the Board of war, will supply such demands as appear to them to be reasonable, without a formal order from this board, as the delay necessarily occasioned in obtaining such an order, may, in many cases, be attended with fatal consequences to the people on the Frontiers. The want of arms suitable for a defence on the frontiers is great, and is not in our power to supply, and we must, there-

* See page 605.

fore, request that you will please to order to be delivered to Col. Carothers about one hundred good rifles, to be distributed by him.

Indorsed,

To the honble Board of War, at York town.

V. P. Bryan to Jno. Carothers, 1778.

Lancaster, 20th June, 1778.

Sir,

The bearer hereof, John McConnell, of Tuscarora Valley, in your County, has been sent by his neighbours to the board of war to solicit arms & ammunition. Coming in this loose way, he obtained nothing but an offer of the board to us to supply more lead & powder, if necessary. But we can not think it safe or proper to to have stores issued as he desired. Since the first grant, of which you had one fourth part assigned you, I understand you have received a second order from the board, & perhaps may be able to send to Tuscarora Valley what supplies may be proper, yet as this is uncertain, the bearer hands a Letter to Yorktown, desiring 500lb of Gunpowder & 1200lb of lead may be ordered to your hands. To this request, a further for rifles is added, which it is hoped may be issued. It is, however, advisable to be very careful of these goods, & not to let them run out too fast into the hands of the privates. Besides, Northumberland Co. may call on you for a part.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed. Servt,

G. B., Vice prest.

Indorsed,

To John Carothers Esq., Lieut. of Cumbd Co.

Council to General Roberdeau, 1778.

Lancaster, 21st June, 1778.

Sir,

Council, just at the moment of departure for Phils, have further & very distressing accounts from Northumberland. The Company of 100 men allowed by the Board of war, for the defence of that frontier, is very insufficient, & the levy, being restrained to the County, this aid adds little to their defence. Fearing the whole settlement will give way, orders are just issued for another such

Corps exactly, to be raised in Lancaster Co., under 6 months inlistment, for which it will be well that you procure approbation, & the Issue of Rations. William M^c^Cullough, of Hanover Township, is thought of for Captain. Perhaps it may be necessary to advance a month's pay in order to procure them at once. The ordinary militia would be of little use to oppose Indians, or Council would before this time have endeavoured to embody some for this service, Besides, Congress have, as yet, made no provision for their victualing.

Inclosed you have Copy of a Letter from Gen^l^ Potter, a gentleman whose intelligence is respected.

Col. Joshua Elder, of Pextang, sublieutenant of this County, will have the charge of forming the Company, w^ch^ Capt. M^c^Cullough is to command, & Col. Hunter, of Augusta, Lieu^t^ of Northumberland, is to direct as to their operations. M^r^ Elder enjoined to give you intelligence how he succeeds.

Indorsed,

To General Roberdeau, at York town.

James Dunlap to Jonathan Hoge, 1778.

Hopewell, 22d June, 1778.

D^r^ Sir,

Before this reach you you will perhaps hear of 4 persons being killed, one wounded, & 8 Captivated between the Standing Stone and Col. Chegages. Though this, which came by express, was found not to be true, yet the people, even in the path Vellay, who was Colected in bodays, is so panick struck that they return tremblin to their houses. Their fears are greatly increast (& well they may) by the want of arms, there not being more than every Tenth man arm'd, and the greater part of those such as Wou'd Turn their arms against us, shou'd the Enemy be permited to advance. And these Emissaries take great incouragement from our defenceless situation. And numbers of them having left their habitations were supos'd to be join'd to the Savages, Cannot fail to increas the aprehention of the well affected. You doubtless Can remember, Sir, that this County, and in particular, the path Vellay, which is a part of my Battalion, & indeed the whole Battalion, was as well arm'd as any part of the Continent, but Cherfuly gave them up when the publick stood in need of them. This will surely have great Weight with the Council. I therefore beseech you, Sir, to use your utmost influence with your Brethren to furnish us with such means as may in a Common course of provedance prevent those evils that must unavoidably follow the depopulation of so large a tract of Countrey. I am of opinion that there is great quantatys of rifle guns in some of the Continental stores, that

is not nor Will not be made use of in the Continental Army, and perhaps might be had if applied for.

Colonel Culbertson, who Carrays this, is going to Camp and wou'd Take that business upon himself, if Council see fit to appoint him.

The Verray Idea of a Savage enemy Comein upon defenseless famaleys Will be sufficient to arouse the Council in their defence. Therefore, shall say no more, but that I am, with all Cincerety, your rail friend & Hum^e^ Servant.

JAS. DUNLOP.

Samuel Rea to Secretary Matlack, 1778.

Mount bethel, Northampton County, June the 22d, 1778.

Sir,

I have Noticed a great Mistake in a Proclamation Issued out by the Supream Executive Council of This State, on the 15th Instant, in Calling on the Traitors of the Township of Mount bethel, In Callin on John Stackhouse, his Name is Joseph Stackhouse, Junior, husbandman; and 2dly, In calling on the others as husbandmen. They are all single men, and not supposed to be in Philadelphia, but with the Greens on Staten Island, and also they have left out Aaron Wood, whom I thought was Return'd, and ought to have been Call'd upon, as a single man, of the Township of Mount bethel, and supposed also to be with the Greens.

Sir, I am,

With Respect,

Your Most humble Servant,

SAML. REA.

N. B. I have Receiv^d^ No Instructions Concerning the Ceizing and Disposing of these Traitors.

Directed,

On publick Service.

Timothy Matlack, Secretary, in Philadelphia.

General Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 23d June, 1778.

Sir,

From the apparent inroads of the Indians on the Western frontiers of this State & that of Virginia, Instigated, as they have been, for the peculiar purpose of subjugating the United States, I had expectations, & still have that Congress wou'd take up this matter in a general or Continental point of view, from which apprehension & the allarming nature of the thing, I took the liberty, some three or four Weeks ago, to throw out a few promiscuous thoughts to the Delegates of this State, in Congress, submitting to their prudence what farther use shou'd be made of them, (a Copy of which I intend you with this) but have not learn'd whether those hints came to their hands.

That the Indian depredations are still increasing is beyond a doubt, & the devastation of Country now much greater than when I wrote the delegates, altho' of the particular murders I have not heard, since those related in General Potter's letter, sent you by Major Myles, only that a woman & two children were missing, & one man wounded at the head of Kishacoquillis Valley. I cannot yet learn, with certainty, whether there is any Indian Town in reasonable reach, on either Branch of the Susquehanah, but think it probable there must, if so, such Town or Towns might be readily destroyed, without much previous preparation; and *one* or *at most Two hundred Men* sufficient for any of these. Shingaclamoose (if now inhabited) is but a few days march above the great Island. However expedient a vigorous attack on their Towns may be, so near is the Harvest, and of so much importance to the future support of the people and army that I'm inclined to think we must for the present be content to act on the defensive, for the reaping & gathering in of the Harvest; yet so extensive is the Frontier, even on this side the Alleghany Mountain, and so inadequate the measure that it's distressing, even in idea, altho' the best that the nature of the case will admit. The Inhabitants must agree to reap, &c., in such associated bodies as may be practicable, with guards appointed to cover them, whilst others, if to be spared, will Patrole behind them, or from one settlement to another. I conceive that all the Militia you can at this season of the year well draw from Lancaster & York Countys, with a small part of Cumberland, will not be sufficient to cherish & support the back parts of Cumberland, Northumberland & Bedford Countys; so that there may be a necessity of drawing some from Chester & Berks also. Yesterday Lieut. Sharp, of Shareman's Valley, told me he thought that in the space of one month Carlisle must be the frontier of this part of the Country, and that many Familys are actually fled in, I know to be fact. Yet it is equally true that various false re-

ports are propagated, & that many have fled too hastily & without just occasion. So that on the whole a notice to such Militia as the Council may think proper, to hold themselves in readiness on a sudden Call, may for the present be sufficient.

There is still another method to be taken that might contribute much to stimulate the frontier Inhabitants to their own defence & the protection of their property. That is a farther distribution of Arms and ammunition among them, in the back Battalions of the three Counties mentioned above; whether this is in your power is matter of doubt, perhaps the Board of War cou'd assist you.

I shou'd be faulty in not informing you that a report prevails here that our people are in quietness at Fort Pitt, and some Indians coming into that place to a Treaty. The authority I cannot well give.

I am, Sir,

With sincere regard,

Your most obed^{t} humble Servant,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

On the Public Service.

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the State of Pennsyl^{a}, Lancaster.

Favour'd by Mr. Wm. Henry.

Gen. Armstrong to Congress, 1778.

Gentlemen,

From a consideration of the Indian incursions on the Western frontiers of Virginia & Pennsylvania, the consequences whereof must readily attract the common attention, I had designed to have address'd a few lines to Congress on that interesting subject, but the suspence arising from our expectations of the departure of the British Enemy on the one hand (in which case part of the continental army could be spared to operate to the West) and on the other, the difficulty of Raising new troops adequate to the purpose, has obliged me to postpone that letter, and adopt the present method of laying before you such thoughts as have occurred to me on that occasion either to be suppressed or farther improved as your prudence will direct.

The number of people Kill'd on both sides the Alleghany I have not learned, on this side and near the Centre of this State they are said to be near forty persons—Under the present depredations many families with such of their effects as they can carry off are already

moved from their habitations, and the farther devastation of Country truly alarming, as beside the great distress of these sufferers if generally drove in with their stock from beyond the Kittany mountain, as was the case last war, their weight will prove an over burthen to the interior parts, even at this clement season of the year.

From the great extent of our frontier, and the Indian mode of war nothing truly salutary nor permanent can be expected from our acting on the defensive. Experience and the nature of things puts this proposition beyond a doubt, a chain of patrole will yield some degree of support to the interior inhabitants and a few incidental advantages have resulted from that measure, but in a mountainous and covered Country of large extent it is generally impracticable and fruitless, it remains therefore that an immediate attack on their several towns is the only method under God of bringing to an early period this desolating and barbarous War, and not less than three different bodies of men should march at once or near the same time, upon the occasion, one from Shamokin or Sunbury, to proceed up the Susquehanna to a certain small town, the name of which I have not yet learned, but where the perpetrators of some of the late murders are said to reside. Two from Fort Pitt of greater force each than the former, to proceed against such of the Towns beyond the Allegany river as may be thought most proper; these last by taking different routes or at least appearing to do so, will divert the Savages and thereby prevent their general junction, yet always to be within supporting distance of each other, and may act separately or in conjunction as prudence & Intelligence shall direct. I shou'd consider the space of three or four days march not out of supporting distance, provided the intelligence be good.

The Indians may evacuate their towns & suddenly flee off, this they have in their power as well as to fight or let it alone at pleasure, but their huts and corn fields must remain, the destruction whereof greatly affects their old men, their women, and their children, whose complaints on these alarming occasions has a native tendency to abate the ferocity of the Warriors, and reduce them to terms of better behaviour. In case our regular Troops cannot seasonably be spared for these purposes, instead of waiting to raise new Regiments in my opinion a number of the militia in the back County's of Virginia, Maryland & Pennsylvania, Ought to be taken into service for the Campaign under their present Officers, or such others as they may chuse, these in aid of some Continental Troops, the whole under the command of General M^cIntosh, whom it's said is appointed to that Department, may be able to prevent that series of Indian Ravages that otherwise is too likely to obtain. In the apprehension of some people Fort Detroit should rather be the object, & an Expedition immediately formed against that Fortress, I am of a very different Opinion for reasons so obvious as at present prevents my giving you the trouble of reading them.

Enclosed I send you a list of the several & most noted Indian

towns within tolerable reach of Fort Pitt, their respective distances from that Post, general situation & reputed strength, Taken from good authority.

And am Gentlemen,

with great respect

your very humble servt,

J. A.

A Copy.

P. S. The paper whereon was the number of Indian Towns, their situation, strength and distance from Fort Pitt, happens to be mislaid, so that I cannot send it.

Sam'l Hunter to Joshua Elder, 1778.

Meetches, 25th June, 1778.

Dear Sir,

When I arrived here this Evening I found a prisoner some of the Inhabitants had taken up for some misconduct of his in this Neighbourhood, which you will see by what Catrine Kinter told Robert Armstrong and John Meetch, sd Prisoner has a kind of a pass but may be a grand Rogue for all, he told me that he was going to Fort Pitt, and that People advised him this was the Nighest way to that Country, he had a Gun, Tomahawk & Ammunition at the time they took him up.

I am afraid that the most of our County will fly before we Get any Relief, as I met between thirty and fourty persons this day in so fare Rideing, as the Indians has been seen on this side Muncy hill and one of them killed, which has occasioned a number of the Inhabitants not fare from Sunbury to repair there, so by that you may form an Idea how we are sircumstanced in Northumberland County.

I am Dr Sr,

your most obdt

Humbe Servt,

SAM'L HUNTER.

Directed,

To Joshua Elder, Esq., Paxton.

Joshua Elder to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Paxton, June 26th, 1778.

Sir,

Last Wednesday I received a Letter from Council dated at Lancaster 21st Inst, with a Resolve of Congress Inclos'd & two Commissions, one for Capt. M^cCullough & the other for Capt. Lieut. Young with some other Papers. I was surpriz'd that Council wou'd expect a Company cou'd be rais'd on the Terms therein mentioned, Viz., "That the same pay, Rations & Subsistance Money be allowed to "this Company as officers of the like Rank & Soldiers in the Conti- "nental Army. That each man provide himself with Cloaths & with "a Blanket, and that eight Dollars be allowed to each Man who "shall furnish himself with a good Rifle & accoutrements." It wou'd be merely Impossible to expect a man wou'd find his Cloaths & a Blanket for 50s. ℔ month, when his pay wou'd not keep shoes on his Feet in that Service, nor that he wou'd procure a Rifle & Accoutrements for eight Dollars when eight times that sum wou'd scarcely purchase the Rifle alone, Especially as he can have two Dollars ℔ Day for Labouring in the interior parts of the State, & Liberty to lie down at Night without fear or molestation. As soon as Capt. M^cCullough & Lieut. Young returned from Lancaster, I waited on them with their Commissions & to enquire what Encouragement they had to raise a Company on these Terms, they told me it was eighty Dollars was promised them by Council shou'd be given each Man, & return'd their Commissions & said they wou'd not attempt it as they knew it wou'd be impossible. The back Inhabitants are in a distressing Situation, I expect unless the Enemy are checked, this Township will be the Frontier in less than two months. I shall wait your answer, and be assur'd that every thing for the Benefit of my Country shall be done that's in the Power of,

your most obedient
& humble Servant,
JOSHUA ELDER.

P. S. The Inclosed is a Letter from Col. Hunter on his way from this home which I just now rec'd.

Directed,

The honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson to Council, 1778.

To the honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Ferguson, of Græme Park, in the County of Philadelphia, submits with all proper Respect the following Memorial:

Having had the unhappiness of seeing my dear Husband, Mr. Henry Ferguson's Name among the proscribed in the Lancaster Paper of May y^e^ 13th, It appears to me to be my Duty, in Consequence of the said Proscription, to touch upon a few Simple Facts relative to Mr. Ferguson's Conduct, and to present them to the Consideration of your Honors; who, I humbly hope, will pay some Degree of attention to the peculiarities of my Situation. This I am induced to believe, as in all Cases of Error, both publick and private, Discrimination appears to be the Language of good Policy, good Sense, and good Nature.

Mr. Ferguson left his own Home in September 1775, and sailed in a Merchant Ship for Bristol; his Business was entirely of a domestic nature to settle some Family affairs with his Brother, in North Britain.

The Commotions of the Public increased so rapidly from that Period of Time, that I, tho' warmly attached to the American Cause myself, (wrote to Mr. Ferguson from time to time) to protract his Stay in Britain, hoping some calmer State would take place; But when the Petition Mr. Richard Penn carried from hence to the Throne (of our at that time Sovereign) was rejected and despised, I found nothing but the Sword would decide our Grievances; Still as a Wife it was natural for me to wish his Absence at so critical a period, and all my Letters breathed that Sentiment uniformly.

In the month of March, 1776,* Mr. Ferguson embarked from Britain to Jamaica, where he remained a month, and then embarked from thence to New York; unfortunately for me the Eve preceding the Sailing of Lord Howe's Fleet. He, anxious to get Home to his Farm, after so long an Absence, consulted some of his Friends in York which would be the most Eligible Way to effect it, in Consequence of which they advised him to go on board the Fleet, which he did; and marched up by land from the Head of Elk. In the Course of his Rout he purposed crossing the Country to his own House, but on Inquiry found that was impracticable, being rendered too equivocal in his Character from the mode of his return, to pass in that Way with Safety.

I never knew 'till the 25th of September, the Day preceding the Enemy's entering the Capital, that he was in America, when a Letter was bro't me by an unknown Hand from him, desiring me to meet him the next Day in Philadelphia; for the Truth of this Circumstance I can appeal to his Honor the Vice President, who happened

* See the Secretary's addition at the close of the letter.

to be at that Time on a transient Visit to some of his Friends at my House; and to whom I shew'd Mr. Ferguson's Letter.

The Day following I met Mr. Ferguson at Germantown, as I could not bear to see the British Troops in possession of the Capital; and all the Joy of seeing my Husband, tho' a thing I had long ardently wished, was obscured and blasted by the mode of his Return; but these are little Circumstances that I beg Pardon for troubling a Collective Body with, yet as my Heart is interested in them, they naturally drop from my Pen.

Mr. Ferguson, within a few Days after his arrival, asked Captain Mc Kenzie, Secretary to General Howe, to solicit the Permission of the Commander in Chief to go out of the Lines to his own House; the answer was, "Mr. Ferguson, I am much surprized at your making "such a request, and would by no means have you ask it, as it will "not be granted."

In the month of November, when from a Combination of Causes Our Prisoners sustained most severe hardships, Mr. Ferguson was induced from a principle of Humanity to take the Office of Commissary as a temporary affair, but I think he told me he would not have a regular Commission made out, nor did he take the Oaths customary on those Occasions. How far he fulfilled the Duties of that Department to the Satisfaction and comfort of my unhappy Countrymen under Confinement, I leave them to determine, it being a matter of such public Notoriety, that my simple Assertion would avail Little as an Individual, and less as a Woman or a Wife. Yet I hope he exercised his limitted Power in his Line of Duty in a Way that will afford him Comfrot before a Tribunal greater than any that presides on Earth. The Recollection of this is the only Consolation I ever received fromhis accepting the Employ.

As to my little Estate, it is patrimonial left me in Fee Simple by my Father.* The Summit of my unambitious Wish is to remain unmolested in that Retirement, which tho' a considerable Tract of Land from the Circumstances of the Time and other Causes afford a Support but with Frugality.

I never for the Space of nine Months that the Enemy were here came to make a Stay of more than four Days, 'till I came to take Leave of my Husband; And then General Washington did me the Honor of sending me a pass unsolicited on my part, tho' gratefully received, in consequence of an intercepted Letter from my Husband to me, assuring me with precision that the British Troops were about departing.

Will your Honors allow me to mention one thing more, and I am done. My Husband, not being a Native† of America, and circumcumstanced as this Memorial above sets forth, though from some part of his Conduct, in a severe Construction of Law, may be deemed an *Enemy*, yet I mean to insinuate is not a *Traitor*, though he is proscribed under that harsh Epithet in the Papers. This Idea I am

* Dr. Græme. † See addition at the close of the letter.

allowed to suggest by Gentlemen learned in the Law, I modestly hint it for your Honors further Inspection and Consideration.

If in the Course of this little Narrative I may have advanced any thing foreign to the point in Hand, or omitted any thing that was necessary to hint; It is hoped the worthy and respectable Members who compose the Supream Executive Council, will impute it to the Ignorance of a Female, whose Line of Writing has been confin'd to Epistolary Subjects, in a careless Way, unsuspicious of the Eye of Criticism or severe Examination.

If the above recital contains any Circumstances that throw a new Light on my Situation, and may have a Tendency to induce a Relaxation in the present Instance, the Obligation will be felt with an ingenuous and grateful Heart; If on the other Hand your Honors should think nothing has been advanced that can prevent Mr. Ferguson's part of the personal Estate from Forfeiture, I must submit, and look on it as my Duty cheerfully to bear a Link of the Chain of heavy Calamities incident to a Civil War.

Making no Doubt that in either Case Justice and Candor will preside in your Councils, under the full Force of this Idea, I beg leave to subscribe myself.

ELIZA FERGUSON.

July 10, 1778. Andrew Robeson, Esq^{r}, attorney for Mrs. Ferguson, requested, That, agreeable to instructions received by him from the Petitioner, the following amendments may be made in this petition, viz^{t}: that March, 1776," be amended & stand "*March*, 1777," and that the word *inhabitant* be inserted in the place of the word "*native.*"

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Indorsed.—"Read in Council, June 26."

Col. John Carothers to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, June 28, 1778.

Sir,

The continued importunity of the fronteer Inhabitants of this & Bedford Counties, for assistance of men, arms & amunition, to enable them to make a stand against the continued incursions of the Indians, until they could get the fruits of the earth, (which is very promising in those parts) some how secured; or until they could get relief from the intended expedition against the Indian Towns; Obligeth me to trouble Council with this Letter.

Notwithstanding The assistance already given by Council & the Board of War, in the way of arms & amunition; the one-third of those who ought to be armed are not yet supplied. I Rec^{d} the Council's Letter of the 20th Instant,* by M^{r} Jno. McConnal, with an order from the Board of War for 500^{wt} of powder, 1200^{wt} of lead &

* See page 609.

80 rifles, but there was no lead to be had here, nor any rifles in repair; I was obliged therefore to take 40 Muskets in Lieu of part of the rifles ordered, which by no means satisfied the people applying. John Harris, Esq^{r}, one of our representatives in Assembly, & Col. McAlevy, of Bedford county, was with me yesterday, supposing it to be in my power to send more militia to their assistance, at the same time aledging that without pretty Large assistance from the interior parts of this State, the fronteer would by no means be able to save their crops, which at this time appears to be a very important matter. In consequence of the order of Council, Dated at Lancaster, the 2^{d} of May Last, I have sent out the first Classes from the 4th & 7th Battalion, to Kishycoquilles & Standing Stone Valley; They turned out very poorly, not more than 60, & with great Difficulty we got those few armed, as the inhabitants up that way, when ever they got arms in their hand whether public or private would by no means part with them, not knowing the hour when they might be attacked in the way, or in their houses; but this guard is so small for so extensive a fronteer, that the inhabitants wants that confidence & security necessary for the preservation of their crops, and without some further assistance of men, arms & lead, the inhabitants of this county, Bedford, and Northumberland, upon the river Susquhana, & Juniata, will be obliged to fly and Leave their harvists, which without doubt will reduce hundreds of families to the utmost Distress. The English army being now left the State, perhaps Congress may find it in their power to allow some assistance from the lower counties Militia, to those distressed people, making no doubt but these counties will gladly Embrace the opportunity of acknowledging former favors of the like kind. Whether Congress has any other Stores of Lead than those here, I know not; but notwithstanding the order from the Board of War, for 1200^{wt} we could not obtain 100^{wt}. These people are waiting with great impatience, and hoping that Council will do every thing in their power for their relief.

I am with respect,

Sir, Your very Humble Servent,

JNO. CAROTHERS, L. C. C.

Directed,

The Hon. George Bryan, Esqr., Vice president of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Cha's Pettit to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Camp, English Town, 30th, June, 1778.

Sir,

Application has been made to the Quarter M^{r} General, by some of the Inhabitants of your State, to receive pay for some Teams captured by the Enemy on the surprize of the Troops under the command of Gen^{l} Lacey. As this Body of Troops was composed entirely of

Militia, and acting separate from the Continental Army, His Excellency the Commander in Chief, recommends that the Matter be referred to the Executive Council for Settlement, in order that the whole charge for Militia Service may be brought in together.

I have the Honour to be, with great Respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

CHA'S PETTIT,*

A. Q. M. Gen.

Directed,

Honble George Bryan, Esqr., V. President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wm. Smith to Sec'y Matlack, 1778.

Agreeable to Mr. Matlack's Desire, Dr. Smith takes the Liberty to remind him of making out the Certificate of Discharge mentioned this morning, & Dr S., will call for it between one & two o'clock to Day.

June 30th, Tuesday.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Sec'y of ye State of Pennsylva.

Prest.

Instructions to the Sheriff, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 1, 1778.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council to remind you, that it is your duty, as Sheriff, to take into your possession the personal estate of those persons, in your County, who have been adjudged to have forfeited the same by refusing to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the State. It may, perhaps be proper, to let the heirs of those persons know, that the Grain, Grass, &c., growing on the ground, are part of the *real estate*, and therefore not forfeited. This may be necessary to prevent any loss which may arise to the heirs, from an apprehension of these things being forfeited as personal estate.

I am with great respect

Your very humble servant,

T. M.

To the Sheriff of the County of Northampton.

* See page 623.

It will not be necessary to remove the personal estate immediately after taking inventory thereof, when the possessors will give security for their delivery on demand; much less will it be proper to sell immediately. As in some cases, applications may be made to Council for lenity, and the possibility of this ought not to be foreclosed.

Route of the Army, 1778.

English Town, July 1, 1778.

From English Town	to Spottswood is	9 Miles.
	to N. Brunswick	9
	to Samp Town	7
	to Springfield via. Scotch Plains	12
	to Newark	9
	to Slotterdam near Aquakanack	12
	to Paramus Church	10
	to Kakeate	14
	to King's Ferry	9
		91

The whole Army to march to morrow morning, at 2 o'Clock, from the Left, in the following Order:

2d Line under the Marquis de la Fayatte.

1 Weedon's 2 Mughlenburg 3 2d Marylan	Brigades	4 2d Maryland 5 Maxwell's (on Comnd.) 6 Park of Artillery.	Brigades.

Left wing under Lord Stirling

7 Patterson's 8 Learned's 9 Glover's	Brigades under the Baron de Kalb.	013d Pennsylvania 11 2d Ditto 12 1st Ditto	Brigades under Wayne.

Right wing under Genl Lee,—but now commanded by the Baron Steuben.

13 Huntington's 14 Varnum's 15 Poor's	Brigades	16 N. Carolina 17 Scott's 18 Woodford's	Brigades

On a Medium, the Army to march 10 Miles a day, more or less

according to the Conveniency of Water: after every three day's March, they are to halt one.

Maxwell's & Morgan's Corps to remain to cover the Country.

Also, a Detach'd Command of Col. Nath[l] Guest.

Directed.

For Timothy Matlack, Esq[r], from his humble Serv[t], John Parke.

Indorsement.

From Col[o] J. Parke, July 1, 1778.

Council to Charles Pettit, Q. M. G., 1778.

Philadelphia, 2[d] July, 1778.

Sir,

Council were not a little surprized at the Reading of your favour of the 30[th] June,* covering Appraisments & Certificates concerning the Teams lost by Gen[l] Lacey, in the surprise at the Billet, in Philadelphia County. Council have business enough of their own, & no inclination to interfere with the Quarter Mas[r] Gen[l] or other Continental officers. This state, at the special instance of Congress, has indeed named proper persons to purchase clothing, provisions & horses, & handed to them money for these purposes, but Council mean not to settle with any of the persons. In the present case, besides the impropriety of undertaking to settle the accounts of Congress, there is no money in the hands of Council for payment of them, without which the adjustment would be of no avail. The reason you give for referring these sufferers to the Executive power of this state, "that the whole Charge of the Militia Service may be brought in together, is not easy to comprehend, unless the Quarter Master Gen[l] & Commissaries of provisions, & stores, mean to send to Council the Accounts of Waggon-hire, Tents, &c., Rations & Ammunition supplied to the Militia for settlement.

It is the wish of Council, that every department of the Military Service, would perform its own business. The Gentlemen intrusted have surely the best opportunity of serving the public with propriety, dispatch & economy. Departures from this rule constantly introduce mistake, waste, & delay, & many other mischiefs. The Council, therefore, decline intermedling with this business.

I am, S[r],

Directed,

To Col[o] Charles Pettit, Deputy Quarter Master General.

* See page 620.

James Claypoole to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

York Town, 2d July, 1778.

Honble Sir

On my arrival here, I had the honor of being presented with your favor of the 24 Ultº; & tho' I had the pleasure of speaking with you on the subject matter of it when at Lancaster, yet thought it a duty to take this notice of it, especially as I have been disappointed in returning to Lancaster so soon as might be expected.

To strengthen the executive authority, is certainly a matter of much importance; but tho' we have been afflicted with the Loss of our worthy President, yet I conceive the supreme executive Council are still vested with all the Powers of executive government; and as the Enemy, by all Accots, either have, or very shortly will evacuate the Capital, cannot think a little delay of the election of a Councillor, will be any prejudice to the Commonwealth.

I again waited at the Door of the Council Chamber before I came off, and one of the Hon'ble members came out & told me he thought it best for me to settle my business here & return to Lancaster as soon as convenient; believe shall set off in the morning, & be ready at any risk to execute any matter which may be thought all Duty in obedience to your & the Hon'ble Council's orders.

I am, Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient Servt,

JAMES CLAYPOOLE.

Directed,

To Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of Pennsylvania.

Favored by Jno. Ord, Esq.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Fort Augusta, July 4th, 1778.

Sir,

The Bearer of this Letter carrys with him Dispatches and Intelligence of the most alarming and serious Consequence; by his accounts, Wioming will not long be able to oppose the Rapid progress of the Enemy, in that Case we cannot say when the will stop, and Lancaster County must soon tell their Ravages. For particulars we must refer you to Mr. Baldwin, we have not Language to paint the consternation of this county, must therefore implore the most strenuous and immediate exertions of Government for our Support; to add

more would only be wasting the time of the Express, and every moment is precious.

I am, Sir,
With great respect,
Yr most obedt H'ble Servt.

SAM'L HUNTER, Lieut.*

P. S. Four hundred stand of Arms will be necessary for compleatly arming the militia of this County, and a considerable supply of Ammunition. L. H.

Directed,

Honorable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of yᵉ Executive Council, Philadᵃ.

Lt. Abr'm Skinner to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sir,

Mr. Francis Johnson, who will deliver you this, has given his word of Honor for the appearance of Mr. James Roche, who is a suspected person, & lately from New York; Gen'l Arnold finding that Mr. Roche had taken the oath to the States, conceived that it was in your Jurisdiction, as we could not see you, and I am obliged immediately to go to Camp, I have taken the Liberty to acquaint you of the matter in this way; he acknowledges that he is lately fm New York, and from what I observed of him while I was prisoner there, I had reason to believe him to be a British officer. This is, however, submitted to your Enquiry.

I am, Sir,
Your Obt Humb. Servt.

ABM. SKINNER,
Lt 1st Pennᵃ Regt.

Mr. Johnson Lodges at Mr. Howard's, 2d Street.

Directed,

To the Hon'bl —— Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Executive Council.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 528.

Adam Reigart to John Hambright, 1778.

Lancaster, July 5th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am Sorrey to trubel you with those fue Lines, but can not help it; you know that I have a Number of horses bought for the Public Sarvice, & Capt. Robart Smith, of Maryland, Leight Draggons, got an Order for them from Counsell, but has not taken the horses away. I wrote last week to Mr. John Cox, A. Q. M. G'l, but Received no answer, so that don't Know what I shall do in the matter, as the Horses are fit for Service, and must undoubtley be wanted at Camp, do therefore beg that you will assist me in getting them of my hands, as I am hartley tired of keeping them, and

You'll Oblige your

Very Humble Servant,

ADAM REIGART.

To John Hambright, Esqr.

T. Matlack to Rev. Thos. Coombe, Jr., 1778.

Philadelphia, July 6, 1778.

Sir,

If you wish to obtain a Pass to New York, it will be necessary for you to make an application to Council in person, or in writing, Setting forth that you decline to take the test and pray leave to retire out of the State. I shall give attention to your application, and expedite the business without delay, and am

Your very hm'ble Servant,

T. MATLACK.*

Directed,

The Reverend Thomas Coombe, junr., Esq. Present.

Robert Levers to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Easton, July 6th, 1778.

Sir,

Capt. Patterson, about an hour ago came to this Place, and gave me the disagreeable Account of a large Body of Indians and Tories having cut off the Settlements at Wyoming; and also that another Party are at Cushietung, on Delaware, and I am in continual appre-

* See Col Rec., Vol. XI., p. 525–527.

hension of unhappy Consequences, as the Settlements from Cushietung to this place are scattered and thin. I Judged it necessary to take Capt. Patterson's Qualification, which I have the Honour here to enclose.

The above Gentleman has returned back over the Mountain, to give every necessary Assistance in his Power, and to put the Militia we have collected together in the best possible disposition, in case the Enemy should attempt to march thro the Country to this Town, which it is not unreasonable to conjecture may be their next object, unless a proper Force can be timely collected to oppose them, and an experienced and brave officer especially appointed to command that Force. Two Companies, consisting of about Eighty men of the Continental Troops, are stationed, I understand, at Pocono, or the Second Blue Mountain, at one John Lerne's, whither the Militia, I believe, are repairing. John Lerne's is about Twenty Five miles from Easton, and I believe, about Forty from Wyoming.

Powder and Lead are both wanted here exceedingly, for, I understand by the Deputy Quartermaster General, that all the ammunition has been lately sent from hence.

When I waited on your Honour last week at Philad^{a}, I really forgot to mention any thing as to the Effects in my hands, entrusted by his Excellency the late President; and as Iron is now sold at Chelsea Forge, where the Two Tons of Iron bought lies, at Two Hundred Pounds ℔ Ton; whether the Iron shall remain there yet, or be sold at the advanced Price, which woud be a Gain of One Hundred Pounds. And what shall be done with the Twenty Barrels of Indigo in my Possession. Should I hear with Certainty of any Advances of the Enemy this way, I shall esteem it my duty to send the Public Records to Philadelphia, unless countermanded by Order of Council.

I have the Honor to subscribe myself,

Sir, your Honours most

obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.*

Directed,

On Public Service—

To the Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

By Mr. William Levers Express.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 528.

Council to Thos. Hale and N. Weaver, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The petition* presented by you has been considered by the Council with that respect which is due to a representation from their fellow citizens, and I am directed to inform you That the Council feel themselves obliged by the advice of their constituents on all occasions, and more particularly so in the present time of difficulty and distress. That evidence respecting property now in the city belonging to the enemy, will be thankfully received by Mr. Robert Smith, Capt. Peel, Mr. Massey, and Mr. Shriner, the commissioners appointed and duly authorized by law to seize such property, and they will take the proper measures to secure it for the use of the state. That the Gentlemen may be assured that the Council strongly feel and greatly lament the hardships and difficulties w^ch^ the Whigs have suffered in this state, and that they are heartily disposed to give the distressed every relief and assistance in their power; but the Council is not possessed of authority to fix the prices of goods, and would remark that Congress and the Legislature have lately declined such regulations as being inexpedient. That As to "conceal ed enemies," it is the duty of every good citizen to make diligent enquiry after them, and to report what they know of them and of their effects to the Magistrates and Commissioners: but it is too evident that there is a great unwillingness in the people of the city to give the necessary information against the disaffected. This subjects both the Council and the Chief Justice to very great difficulties. That the Council are willing and ready to adopt any effectual and lawful measure which may be proposed to do justice to the Friends of liberty; but the appointing of persons as recommended in the petition, "with powers and directions to "make a general search, to seize suspected persons, take inventories "of merchandize as well as Furniture, &c.," is not within the authority of the Board; and if this measure were adopted it would, probably, be opposed by the best Friends of liberty as a most arbitrary exercise of assumed authority; or, if submitted to, would establish a precedent which would have the most dangerous tendency to set up in the executive branch of Government an arbitrary power destructive of the liberty and safety of the people; therefore the Council cannot think of appointing such persons or pretend to give such powers.

That the guards mentioned in the petition have already been fixed by Major General Arnold, at the request of Council, and will be continued as long as there shall appear to be occasion for it.

* This has not been found.

I beg you will please to lay this before the Gentlemen who signed the above mentioned petition, and assure them that

I am with great respect,
their most obedient
& very humble servant,
T. M.*

Directed,

To Thos Hale & Nichs Weaver.
Philadn, July 7, 1778.

Lieut. John Wetzel to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Northampton, July 8, 1778.

Sir,

Just now we Received A Letter from Col^{l} Stroud of the 6th Batt^{n} of Northampton County militia, Informing us that a body of Indians and Whitemen are upon their march to the Settlements upon Delaware, they being Discovered at the mouth of Lahawaxin and moving towards Shaholy. By the bests Information we Received we Learn that Wyoming is Finally Destroy'd, upon which we have Ordered out half of the Batt^{n} of the County; but by all the Accounts it is not a Sufficient number to withstand their Force, as we suppose this to be a Different Number from those at Wyoming, which by those that made their Escape their number is supposed to be between Seven and Eight Hundred.

Sir, we Humbly beg your Interposition on the Premises, & am with Due Submission your Humble Servants.

JOHN WETZEL, Lieut.,†
JOHN CHAMBERS, Sub Lie^{t}.

Directed,

To His Honour George Bryan, Esq^{r}, Vice President in and for the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 528.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 526, 531.

T. Matlack to Jona. D. Sergeant, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 9, 1778.

Sir,

I congratulate you on the present happy aspect of our affairs in general, as well as the particular wished for event of our repossessing of the city of Philadelphia. Its inhabitants in general, Whig & Tory throughout, appear to be fully reconciled to independency, and acknowledge their detestation of the conduct of their formerly reputed best friends the British troops.

The situation of things in this city, renders your presence here absolutely necessary as soon as it is possible. Among many other things which cannot be delayed, is the case of a ship which struck on the Cheveaux de Frize and sunk. Mr Beverage claims her by right of purchase of the enemy, and has entered his claim in the Admiralty court; the Council conceive her to be the property of the state.

The Assembly is called to meet the 4th of next month in this city, to enter on business, of which there is enough.

I have the orders of Council to request that you will not delay your coming a moment longer than is absolutely necessary.

I am, with great respect,

Your most obt hmble servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To J. D. Sergeant.

To the Care of the Rev. Elihu Spencer, in Trenton.

Lt. Jacob Morgan to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Reading, July 11th, 1778.

Sir,

We Received the Inclos'd, ℔ Express, from Colonel Hunter, Lieutenant of Northumberland County. You See by the contents the Necessity they are under for want of Assistance, we, therefore, thought it our Duty to Forward it to Council ℔ Express, and by all

accounts we have receiv'd, they are in a very Distressing Condition, they Inhabitants Daily Leaving their Habitations.

I am, Sir, with Due regard,

Your Honour's

most Obedient Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

To the Honourable George Bryan, Esq^r., Vice President.

Lt. Saml. Hunter to Commanders of Militia, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 9 July, 1778.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to inform you of the present distressed situation of this County. I suppose before this Comes to hand you will be informed of the Carnage which happened at Wioming. The Inhabitants of the West Branch of the Susquehannah have suffered almost as much, tho' not at one time, therefore not so severely felt, however, both Branches are almost evacuated, and from all appearances the Towns of Northumberland & Sunbury will be the Frontier in less than twenty-four hours. The Inhabitants of both Towns, with A few of the Fugitives from the upper parts of the County, seem determined to make a stand, but how long they can do it seems very precarious, and indeed, without assistance from other Counties, their stand will be very short, in which case your & other Counties must experience the Calamities we now feel by being the Frontier. Nothing but a firm reliance on Divine providence and the Virtue of our neighbours, induces the few to stand that remain in the two Towns, and if they are not very speedily reinforced they must give way, but will have this Consolation, that they have stood in defence of their liberty & Country as long as they could, and that the want of assistance alone obliges them to retreat. In Justice to the County (Gentlemen) I must bear testimony that the states never applied to it for men in vain. I am sure the whole state must know that we have reduced ourselves to our present feeble condition by our readiness to turn out upon all occasions when call'd upon in defence of the common cause. Should we now fall for want of assistance, let the neighbouring Counties reconcile to themselves, if they can, the breach of brotherly love, Charity, and every other Virtue which adorns and advances the Human species above the brute Creation. I shall not attempt to point out particular cruelties or barbarities that have been practised on our unhappy Inhabitants, but assure you That for the number, history affords, in no Instance, of more

heathenish Cruelty or savage barbarity than has been exhibited in this County; I shall only add that a few hundred men, timely sent to Sunbury, to act in conjunction with the People who mean to stand there, or proceed further up the Country as occasion may require, will, in all human probability, save numbers of lives, and prevent the depredations threatened by the savages on other Counties. I should be glad, Gentlemen, to hear from some of you as soon as possible, that we may know what assistance we are to expect from your County; could the men accompany the answer it would be the better, as you may believe me no time should be lost, or all this County is lost, and the fate of other Counties hangs on as slender a thread as this did.*

I am, Gentlemen,

with due respect,

Your Very Humble Servent,

SAMUEL HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To Colonel Henry Shoemaker, Col. Michael Lindawood, and other Commanders of Militia in Berks County.

Matthew Smith to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Paxtang, July 12th, 10 O'Clock, 1778.

Sir,

I am this Moment arrived at Mr. Harrises Ferry, & Just now Behold the Greatest Scenes of Distress I ever saw, the Numerous poor Ran away from their habitations & left their all, & several familys have lost part, kill^{d} & scalp^{d}; on the Retreat the most Cruel Butcheries Ever known is practised, wounded and others thrown into fires while yet living; the Inhabitants, however, are much distressed, the Wioming people are undoubtedly, by the last Acc^{ts}, entirely Defeated; Northumberland county is Evacuated, not more than one hundred men with Col^{o} Hunter, at Sunbury; the Blue Mountains is now the frontier, & I am afraid Lancaster county shortly will follow the Example of the other county; the Stores at Carlisle is something very considerable—I Doubt not their Object is to Destroy that place. I am inform^{d} there is not that Care taken that should be, I think it would be Necessary to appoint some Careful Officer at that place that would Do the Duty more punctual.

This party is large, have Col^{o} Butler at their head, 100 Regular Troops at first, about the same Number of Tories, but is Encreas^{d}

* See Col. Records, Vol. XI., p. 531.

to two or three times that Number, Seven hundred Indians all arm[d] in a most formidable manner Every one of them, Exclusive of Guns and Tomahacks, as usual; Each one hath a large Spoontoon, and as soon as Engag[d] Rushes on in a most Dreadful manner; it is said they have field pieces or Swivels, & a Number of light Horse.

It is the Earnest Request of all friends to their Country, as well as your Humble Serv[t], that something shall be done in y[e] Greatest hast; be pleas[d] to send an Order for what arms is Ready at Lancaster & Hummelstown, also for Amunition, & I shall Exert Every Nerve in forwarding matters to the spot the men shall Collect.

I am, D[r] Sir,

Your most ob[t]. Serv[t].

MATT'W SMITH.

Geo. Bryan, Esqr.

Peter De Haven to Col. T. Matlack, 1778.

Hummels Town, July 12, 1778.

Sir,

This Day there was 20 or 30 familyes passd threw this town, sum from Buflo vallew and from Sunsbarry, & sum familys from this side of Peters mountain, Yomin is taken & most of our People have left Sunbary, and are Coming down; those People inform us that their is 200 Wagons on the Road Coming Down in a Day or two. I was this Day at Mr. Elders Meeting, after Sarmant Col. Clark & Col. Rodgers Maid a Parpatick to the inhabitants for to Turn out about 100 Men as Volunteers; they Agreed to Call the Betallions to Gether on Tusday to see what Number of Men would turn out; they applied to me for sum Arms, which I Promis to Let them have 50 or 60 with out your Consent, as it was so Distressing, & you was so fir of that I Could not get an order from you. I should be Glad to know, the first opportunity, if you Don't think it will be Prudent to Move the Factory to French Crick or to Philad[a], or to sum other Place wher you May think More Safe, if our Enemy should be admited to Come Lower Down: it won't be in My Power to Get one Wagon to Move Aney of our arms & tools from that Place, so I should be Extremly Abledge to you if you would Lay it before the Counsyl, & send up My Directions how I shall act, & in so Doing you will very much Abledge your Friend &

Humble Servant,

PETER DE HAVEN.

Directed,

To Col. Timothy Matlack, Sec'y, Philadelphia.

Wm. Maclay to Council, 1778.

Paxton, July 12th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I write you this Letter with Reluctance, as I am certain it must give pain to any man of Sensibility, to be informed of the distressed Situation of our Frontiers. I left Sunbury, and almost my whole Property, on Wednesday last. I will not trouble you with a Recital of the inconveniences I suffered, while I brought my Family by water to this Place. I never in my Life saw such Scenes of distress. The River and the Roads leading down it were covered with men, women and children, flying for their lives, many without any Property at all, and none who had not left the greatest part behind; In short, Northumberland County is broken up, Col. Hunter only remained using his utmost endeavours to rally some of the Inhabitants, and to make a stand, however short, against the Enemy. I left him with very few, I cannot speak with certainty as to numbers, but am confident when I left him he had not one hundred men on whom he could depend. Wioming is totally abandoned, scarce a single Family remained between that Place and Sunbury, when I came away. The Panic and Spirit of Flight has reached even to this Place, many have moved even out of this Township, and almost every one is thinking of some place of greater security. You will scarce be able to give me Credit, when I assure you, That if the same Body which defeated Col. Butler at Wioming, would follow up the Blow, they may without difficulty penetrate to Carlisle. Something, my Dear Sir, must be done to restore Confidence to the desponding and flying multitude, and to make them face the Enemy depend on it, Sir, the Country will be lost without some vigorous measures. For God's Sake, for the sake of the Country, let Col. Hunter be reinforced at Sunbury—send him but a single Company, if you cannot do more. Mrs. Hunter came down with me. As he is now disincumbered of his Family, I am convinced he will do every thing that can be expected from a Brave and determined man. I must mention to you with Freedom, an opinion That has prevailed, and done great hurt on the Frontiers, viz., That no men or Relief would be sent to them. The miserable Example of the Wioming People, who have come down absolutely naked among us, has operated strongly, and the Cry has been, let us move while we may, and let us carry some of our Effects along with us. It was to no purpose that Col. Hunter issued Orders for assembling the Militia, and the whole County broke loose. Something in the way of Charity ought to be done for the many miserable objects that croud the Banks of this River, especially those who fled from Wioming; they are a people, you know, I did not use to love, but I now most sincerely pity their distress. The women and children, in general, are

now removed out of Northumberland County, and I cannot but hope that the men will most chearfully return, with the first Troops that go up that way. We are told every hour of more and more Murders committed by the stragling Savages. We hope great part of this vague Intelligence may prove without Foundation. The Express waits, so shall not enter into particulars of that kind—am in great Haste, Dear Sir, with sincere Regard,

Y^r^ most obed^t^

& most H'ble Serv^t^.

WM. MACLAY.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Hon'ble Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

℔ favour of Mr. Eckert.

Gen. Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 12th July, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 6th Inst. I have lately rec^d^, & am sorry for the various embarrassments laboured under by Council, more especially at this critical hour when these more than Savage Villians of the North have, in conjunction with the Indians, taken the advantage of this busy season to give this State a Severe blow. I mean more particularly the painful flight of the populace, Roads & Rivers crowded with miserable objects who have left behind not only part of their effects, but their *Harvests*, the great support of future time. For the particular inroads & depredations of the Enemy, I must refer you to the accounts sent from Northumberland, & Gen'l McIntoshe's Express of this day, to the Board of War. I do not pretend to know the Generals Orders respecting the Frontier of this State, but find him a prudent man & susceptible of advice. The Troops he sends off this day for the Sasquehanah, (about three hundred, and Forty that marched before for the Standing Stone,) to be Commanded by Coll. Brodhead, will, I hope, not only revive the fainting Spirits of the back Inhabitants, but also draw a considerable number of them to join the Continental troops. General Potter lives near Sunburry, & will, I hope, be joined by a number of Militia at present in the style of Volunteers, who without doubt ought to be paid, so that he & Coll. Broadhead will, we trust, be able to Check the farther descent of the virulent Mr. Butler & his tawney adherents. If they shou'd fail, and the Enemy appear to encrease & farther penetrate the country, I shall, God willing, as-

cend these mountains with as many as will follow under the very sensible frailty of nature at this intemperate season, and the still more sensible want of many necessarys. In the mean time, doubting nothing of every exertion of Council in their power, and to which Congress or the Board of War on a free conference cannot fail to accede, nor possibly require the use of argument to prove the present an important object of Continental concern. The letter I last wrote you, with the Copy then enclosed, together with this hasty scrawl, you may, if you think proper, shew to the honorable the President, or any other member of Congress, or the Board of War. That addressed to the delegates of this State contain'd only a few hints or out lines for farther explication, but have not been so happy as to receive the Gentlemen's thoughts on them. I know the interesting objects of the East naturally drew their attention, but our toils require us also to observe the setting Sun.

With respect to an expedition against Fort Detroit, I do assure you a syllable of it shou'd not have dropped from me had it not been so openly talked of, & without any apparent reserve, but am still of opinion that in present circumstances the enterprize is totally inelligible, & that this position admits of moral certainty.

I am, Sir,
with much esteem, your
most humb^{l} Servant,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Even the Continental troops want flints.

Directed,
On Public Service—

The Honorable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to Supreme Executive Council, 1778.

To His Excellency The President and The Hon^{e} The Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

The Calamities so long dreaded, and of which ye have been more than once informed must fall upon this County if not assisted by Continental troops or the Miltia of the neighbouring Counties, now appear with all the Horrors attendant on an Indian war; at this date The Towns of Sunbury and Northumberland are the Frontiers where a few Virtuous Inhabitants and fugitives seem determined to stand, Tho' doubtful whether To-morrow's sun will rise on them, freemen, Captives or in eternity. Yet relying on that being who never forsakes the virtuous, and the timely assistance of the Government, which they have with Zeal and vigour endeavoured to support, they say

they will remain as long as they can without incurring the censure of suicide. The Carnage at Wioming, the devastations and murders upon the West branch of Susquehanna, On Bald Eagle Creek, and in short throughout the whole County to within a few miles of these Towns, (the recital of which must be shocking) I suppose must before now have reached your ears, if not you may figure yourselves men, women and children, Butchered and scalped, many of them after being promised quarters, and some scalped alive, of which we have miserable Instances amongst us, People in crouds driven from their farms and habitations, many of whom have not money to purchase one days provision for their families, which must and already has obliged many of them to Plunder and lay waste the farms as they pass along. These Calamities must if not speedily remedied by a reinforcement of men from below inevitably ruin the frontier, and incumber the interior Counties with such numbers of indigent fugitives unable to support themselves as will like locusts devour all before them. If we are assisted to stand and save our crops, we will have enough for ourselves and to spare, you need be under no apprehension of any troops you send here suffering for want of provisions if they come in time, before the few who yet remain are obliged to give way, with men it will be necessary to send arms and ammunition as we are ill provided with them. Gentlemen, ye must all know that this County cannot be strong in men after the numbers it has furnished to serve the united states, Their applications to us for men were always complyed with to the utmost of our abilities and with the greatest alacrity; should our supplications now be rejected I think the survivors of us, (if any) may safely say that Virtue is not rewarded, I have only to add that A few Hundreds of men well armed and immediately sent to our relief would prevent much bloodshed, confusion and devastation through many Counties of this State, as the appearance of being supported would call back many of our fugitives to save their Harvest for their subsistance, rather than suffer the inconveniences which reason tells me they do down the Country and their with their families return must ease the people below of a heavy and unprofitable Burthen, These oppinions I submit to your serious Considerations.

And have the honour to be,

Gentlemen with due respect

your very Humble Servant,

SAM'L HUNTER, Lieut.

Sunbury, 12th July, 1778.

Directed,

To His Excellency the Presid^{t} & the Hon^{e} the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

fav^{d} by Captain Lincoln.

Jacob Morgan, Jr., to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Reading, July 13th, 1778.

Hon[d] Sir,

I am in hopes our correspondence will not brake off although I have no news to write you. I would beg you will when any thing new happens let know it as soon oportunity will offer.

I give you joy of the arrival of the French fleet and ambasadore, Suppose ere now war must be declared between France and Briton. I expect Hourly to hear something great from them, what do you think of the whole British Fleet surrendering to them and the army to the United States at York.

I should be glad of your opinion respecting Trade, will the British Fleets be obliged to leave the cost of America, or will they still continue to Harrass our Trade, will not the French send Convoys to guard our Merchantmen to and from their Countery and Islands.

My best respects to the Hon[ble] Gen[l] of the Council & Sec'y.

I am Hon[d] Sir, with
sincair regard your
most obed[t] Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, jr.

P. S. What's become of my worthy Friend Col. Bayard, hope he is well and has been to see you in the City.

Directed,

H'ble Geo. Bryan.

Circular of Council, 1778,

The following draft of a circular letter was read in Council and agreed to, viz:

In Council,
Philadelphia, July 14, 1778.

Sir,

The attack which has been made by the indians and others on the Frontiers of this State having been laid before the Congress, and a consultation held between the Board of war and Council, they have agreed upon the following arrangement for defence, to wit:

A Detachment of Col. Hartley's regiment to march from New jersey to Easton, there to join Col. Kowatz, who has under his command a small number of horse. The remainder of Col. Hartley's reg[t], now in Philadelphia, to march immediately to Sunbury and

join the two companies lately raised at Wyoming. Col. Broadhead's regiment, now on their march to Pittsburgh, to be ordered to the Standing Stone. For this purpose you are to order out the first, second, third, & even the fourth class, if it be necessary, to make up this number; the men must be had. But it is necessary to add to these continental troops a considerable body of militia; Council have therefore determined to order to Sunbury three hundred militia from the county of Northumberland, four hundred from the county of Lancaster, and one hundred and fifty from the county of Berks; to the Standing stone, three hundred from the county of Cumberland, and two hundred from the county of York; to Easton, from the county of Northampton, three hundred men, and from the county of Berks, one hundred and fifty men.

You are therefore to exert yourself to get into the field three hundred men of the militia of your county, and march them immediately. It is expected that there is Guns sufficient in your hands to arm them. Ammunition and Provisions will be supplied to you by order of the Board of War.

The arrival of a powerful fleet from France, having a considerable number of troops on board, with orders to act in conjunction with the Continental Army, and now actually blocking up the British Fleet in the harbour of New York, has induced the Congress to determine to make a vigorous effort to destroy the whole British force now in that city, and there appears to be a reasonable ground to hope for success in the attempt. This determination makes it highly improper to detach any part of the main army for the defence of the frontiers. If the attempt to reduce the whole British force should be crowned with success, it will undoubtedly be attended with the most salutary effects in removing the enemy from the frontiers; as it cannot be doubted but that they must see the impossibility of their continuing with any hope of success, their attack on us, when we shall be able to employ our whole force against them. And we are confident that the blow given by the indians will be severely revenged before the war with them will be closed.

[To the foregoing are appended the following (apparently) notes or memorandums to be further used. A. & B.]

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A.

The arrangement of the board of War. They Expect Militia to join—promise ammunition, & orders to the Commissary for victuals —Stations for Militia to repair to . Arms as the Case may be, at Northamp., Reading, Lancaster or Hummelstown, Orders issued to furnish these. Classes ordered & numbers to be aimed at. Blockade of N. Y. by Land, & port Shut by French fleet, w^{ch} as it

promises by one Capital Stroke to finish the war in this Country, requires all attention, & the keeping entire the Army. Therefore no detachment can be expected.

To Northampton.

There is at the town of Northampton a sufficient number of Arms to supply any deficiency, which, however, we hope will not be considerable.

Cumberland and York.

To be supplied from Carlisle by the board of War, and if this supply is not sufficient, application must be made to M^{r} Rittenhouse & M^{r} Dehaven, at Hummelstown.

Berks & Lancaster.

To apply to Wm. Henry, Northumberland & Northampton.

Delaware may be defended by Northampton & New Jersey Militia.

B.

1st, 2nd, third, & even fourth, if necessary, to raise their numbers. Same, or to use such other means as are in y^{r} power in the present distressed situation.

Northampton county,	300.	Easton.
Northumberland co., Sunbury,	300.	
Cumberland co., Standing Stone,	300.	
Berks co., 150 Sunbury,	300.	150 to the Eastw^{d}, 150 to the West^{d}.
Lancaster co., Sunbury,	400.	
York co., Standing Stone,	200.	
	1800.	

Chester co.,		
Bucks co.,		
Philad^{a} co.,		Bedford.
Northumberland to Sunbury,	300,	& two Companies raised at Wyoming last winter.
Berks,	150.	
Lancaster,	400.	
	850	

Standing Stone.

Cumberland,	300	Easton, Northampton,	300
York,	200	Berks,	150
	500		450

& Broadhead's regt 300
July 14, 1778.

Wm. Lewis to Col. Matlack, 1778.

July, 14th, 1778.

Sir,

Peter Deshong, who is one of ye Persons mentioned in a Proclamation issued by the honble, ye President & Council, as having committed Treason agt this State, and who, conscious of his Innocence, has surrendered himself, & entered Security for his appearance in Order to abide by his Trial, informs me that about two of the Clock yesterday, when he was from Home, his House was surrounded by a Party of Men, armed with Clubs, who were in search of him for ye avowed Purpose of Revenge. As none of those Persons were known to Mr Deshong's Family, the Law, you will readily conceive, cannot possibly lay hold of them, in Order to prevent them from running into Excesses of Violence. In this Situation, his own Safety requires him to absent himself from home, leaving his Family disturbed with the greatest Apprehensions. The Reason, therefore, of my troubling you at present is, that if you approve of my Proposal, you would please to mention to ye Council the necessity and Propriety of issuing a Proclamation setting forth, that as the Civil Authority is now reestablished in this City, those who have offended agt the Laws of the Land will be called to answer, and punished according to their Demerits; and therefore forbidding the taking of private Revenge. A step of this Kind, it appears to me, may prevent much Bloodshed and Oppression, as this is not the only Instance by Many of taking Revenge out of the Course of regular Proceedings, And therefore I hope the Council will fall upon this or such other Measures to preserve Peace & good Order, as to them may seem meet & expedient.

I am, Sir,

Yr Hubl. servt,

WM. LEWIS.

Directed,

Colonel Matlack, P'sent.

Bartrem Galbraith to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

Lancaster, 14th July, 1778.

Sir,

Yesterday, at noon, I rec'd the Alarming Intelligence of Eight or Nine hundred British Troops, Tories & Indians, coming down the East Branch of Susquehanna driving all before them; it is Said they have taken three of our Forts at Weyoming, or near to it; out of one of which, four hundred of our men Sallied out upon the Enemie, (not expecting them to be such a Number) & that only Sixty escaped, since which, the Enemie have burnt the people's habitations thereabouts. On Sunday morning last, the banks of the Susquehanna, from Middletown up to the blue Mountain, were intirely cled with the Inhabitants of Northumberland County, who had moved off, as well as many in the River, in Boats, Canoes, & Rafts &c. Indeed, the Inhabitants of Wiconesco Valley, which is about twenty-five miles above Harris's ferry, in this County, were moving on Sunday last, & that the People lower down were thinking to follow. This I had from Capt Scott, a Man of Veracity, who was up at Garver's mill for his Sister, the wife of Colo Hunter, & spake with a Lieutenant of a Company that was Stationed at Weyoming & was in the Action; he also seen Six of the wounded men that were brot down. In the meantime, I'm venturing the Priviledge of calling the Class's of Militia that were ordered to hold in readiness some time agoe to March, altho' has not appointed their randisvouse before Saturday nixt, against which time, I hope to have your orders, that, should the remaining three Classes be too many they may be countermanded (one Class of the four has don duty as Guards.)

It is really a Melancholy affair for the Inhabitants of Northumberland, as well a many of this County; for should they not get their Crops cut, or some part of them, the poor people will be entirely ruined; as many of them has been obliged to come off without the necessarys of life, or wherewithall to purchase, leaving their Stocks behind, &c. In haste, I wait the orders of Council,

and am your most ob't

H'ble servt,

BARTREM GALBRAITH, Lt.

Lancaster County.

Directed.

To Geo. Bryan, Esq'r, Vice President for the State of Pennsyiv'a.

℔ Express.

Council to D. Rittenhouse, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 14, 1778.

Sir,

Council have just now received, for the first time, information that the Congress have granted an order in favour of Council, about a month agoe, for the sum of one hundred Thousand Dollars on account of Cloathing purchased by order of Congress. It is absolutely necessary that you possess yourself of this money as soon as possible, and for this purpose a journey to York will afford you an opportunity of exercise which will contribute to your health. The order is lodged at the Treasury Board, where you will please to apply for it.

As a friend, I much fear that this business will interfere with the necessary care of your family, in their removal to this city, but the distress of the Commissioners for purchasing Cloathing is such as must move compassion in the hardest heart.

The enclosed order of Council will authorise you to receive the money above mentioned.

My family arrived here on Sunday afternoon in good health.

I am, affectionately,

Your Fr'd & very hm'ble servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To David Rittenhouse, Esq^{r}, Treasurer.

Board of War to Council, 1778.

The Board of War are about concerting Measures for the Defence of the Frontiers of this State, & would be glad to confer at General Arnold's with any members of the Hon. Council they think most capable of giving Information & Advice on the Subject. The Board wait the Answer of Council.

July 14th, 10 O'clock, A. M.

Directed,

To Hon. Council of Pennsilvania.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 15, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Council have ordered the following number of militia into Service for the defence of the frontier, viz.,

From Northumberland, 300 From Lancaster, . . . 400 From Berks, ... 150	to march to Sunbury 850.
From Berks, ... 150 From Northampton, . 300	to march to Easton 450.
From Cumberland, . . 300 From York, ... 200	to march to Standing Stone 500.

The furnishing these several posts with ammunition the Board of War are the most competent judges of, both as to the quantity necessary and the ability of the continent to afford a plentiful supply.

Directed.

To the Hon'ble Board of War.

Council to Agents of Forfeited Estates, 1778.

15 July, 1778.

Gent^{a},

Council have been informed that you have seized some salt, & perhaps other goods, not the property of persons attainted by or under the Act of Assembly, in pursuance of wh^{ch} you act, on consideration that this step exceeds your authority, & may, it is to be feared, bring you into into the predicament of Trespass, you are advised to desist from detaining the goods in question. Goods left behind or abandoned by the British merchants, or others not attainted, or not known, will more regularly fall under the notice of the Sherif, as the agent noticed & acknowledged by the Common Law. The safe line of conduct of every officer, or agent, is to keep within his proper Duty. By this he will avoid many inconveniences.

Council will consider of the case of the possessors of the Salt, &c., & do therein as shall appear to be proper.

I am, &c.,

By order,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

To the Agents for forfeited Estates for City of Phila.

Council to Wm. Henry. 1778.

Philadelphia, July 15, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have ordered the Lieutenants of the county of Lancaster and Berks to call on you for what arms may be necessary to put into the hands of the militia now ordered into service from these Counties, and if arms cannot be had at Carlisle, the Lieut's of York & Cumberland will also apply to you to make up their deficiencies. These demands you will please to comply with as far as may be in your power.

The arrangement for the Frontier defence is

Part of Col. Hartley regt now in Philada about	100
Two Wioming Companies (uncertain)	100
Militia from Lancaster,	400
Berks,	150
Northumberland,	300
To march to Sunbury	1050
Part of Col. Hartley's regt now in New Jersey,	80
Northampton Militia,	300
Berks "	150
Col. Kowatz's horse,	20
A small comp'y under Col. Butler.	20
at Easton	570
Col. Broadhead's regt (perhaps),	250
Cumberland Militia,	300
York,	200
	750

A vigorous attack on New York is determined on while the French fleet block up the harbour, and there is reason to hope for success in the measure.

Yours &c.

Directed,

To Wm. Henry. Esq.

Col. Andrew Boyd to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sadsbury, 15th July, 1778.

Sir,

Having this morning met with yesterday's newspaper, which contains a proclamation from the Supreme Executive Council offering a reward for James Fits Patrick.

I apprehend that Council either has forgot or hath not been informed of his partner Mordecai Dougherty, who hath always been with Fitzpatrick in his roberies, both of men & money, who Fitz stiles his Lieutenant, Dougherty is, or was an inhabitant of East Malborough Chester County, and a certain Jonathan Jones of the same County was at the takeing of Mr. Luchey and I believe Ensign Burgandine, since which I have not heard of him, but Mordecai Dougherty you may be ashured is equally guilty with Fitz Patrick.

I am with real

respect your Honours

very Hum^{e} Serv^{t},

AND'W BOYD, S. Lt.

Directed,

The Hona^{e} George Bryan, Esq., Philadelphia.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, July 16, 1778.

Sir,

This morning we received some letters from Carlisle, by which we find that Gen. M^{c}Intosh was informed of the ravages of the Indians at Wyoming, in consequence of which he ordered Col. Brodhead with his reg^{t} up the Susquehanna, to stop the progress of the enemy, & encourage the militia to stand in their own defence. He was ordered to take some spare amunition with him. We suppose he marched the 12th instant.

The inclosed letter of Gen. de Haas, we send for your perusal, We propose desiring him to march with all the men he can collect, & to give him orders to draw amunition & other necessaries for the purpose. This voluntary offer of Gen. de Haas gives us great pleasure, we doubt not it will prove beneficial, in proportion to the numbers who join him; and trust it will meet the approbation of the Council, we wish indeed he had not waited for orders, but marched immediately with all the force he could draw together, for the incursions of Indians are so sudden & rapid, that a country must be

exposed to utter devastation, unless the militia rush out at once where danger presses, without waiting the formal orders of the Supreme power, which must unavoidably be attended with great delays.

We are Sir, your
most obed^{t} Servants,
By order of the board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President, &c.

The following are the letters referred to No. 1 & 2.

No. 1.

ABM. SCOTT & OTHERS TO COL. C. GRUBB, 1778.

Garbers Mill, July 12th, 1778.

Sir,

By Express we received yours dated 10th Inst, to Col. Hunter, and as the Express says he was informed Col. Hunter was at Harris's Ferry turned back, which we made bold to brake open, wherein you desire an account. The Inhabitants of Northumberland County are all fled but a few men that make a stand with Col. Hunter at Sunbury. The Wyoming Men Turned out of their fort and gave the Indians Battle. There was about 400 Men in the action and but about 60 got off. This account we have from a Lieutenant and numbers of officers that were in the action. The Indians have killed several at the mouth of the Wariour Run on the West Branch, The Inhabitants in the uper part of our County are coming down, and without immediate help in all probability the greatest part of our County will suffer. It is a distressing time with the Inhabitants of Northumberland County, as numbers of them had not time to bring any thing with them, not knowing where to go, and destitute of the necessaries of Life to subsist on. Pray use all the Interest you can to send up some men to assist Col. Hunter to make a stand at Sunbury.

We are Sir
your hum. Serv^{ts}
ABRAM SCOTT,
JOHN LEE,
WILLIAM FOULKS,
JOHN GARBER,
WILLIAM SAGERS.

Excuse Haste.

N. B. There are 6 Wounded men at this Place from Wyoming.

Directed, Col. Curtiss Grubb.

No. 2.

J. P. De Haas to Board of War, 1778.

Lebanon, 13th July, 1778.

Sir,

Upon frequently hearing that the Indians were committing murders & other outrages at Weyoming, I desired Colonel Grubb to send an Express to Col. Hunter to know the certainty, he is returned from Garber's Mill above Harris's Ferry & brings the inclos'd intelligence.

I wou'd immediately oppose them with a number of men which I think highly expedient; but as no such measure ought to be prosecuted without instructions, I wou'd be much obliged to you to let me know the sentiments of the Honble the Board of War upon the occasion. If its agreeable send me power to draw ammunition & other necessaries for the purpose.

I am Sir, your

most obed^{t} hble Serv^{t},

J. P. DE HAAS.

Directed,

On public Service.

The Honble Richard Peters, Esq., Member of this Board of War, Philadelphia.

Council to Col. Galbraith, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, 16th July, 1778.

Sir,

Colonel Pickering, in the name of the Board of War, has this day communicated to Council a Letter from General De Haas, offering his service in leading out a body of volunteers against the Indians. Council applaud the spirit of the Gentleman on this occasion, and wish you to give him your utmost countenance. They rejoice to find an officer of weight & experience, stepping forth in the defence of the Country. They judge it expedient, however to send you this notice of it, that such exertions may not break in upon & derange

your duty as Lieutenant, by collecting Corps out of the Class or Classes, you may have called out.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed Servt,

GEO. BRYAN,

Vice Presidt.

P.S. Your favour of the 14th, was received this day, It was, in effect, answered, in mine of the same date.

Directed,

Col. Galbraith, Lancaster Co.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, July 16, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Council receive with great satisfaction, the information contained in your letter of this date, respecting the march of Coll. Broadhead's regiment to the support of the good people on the Susquehana, as there was but too much reason to apprehend that the regular force ordered up that river would not, under the present dreadful apprehensions of danger, be sufficient to encourage the Militia to exert themselves in a vigorous defence. This prudent and judicious order of Gen. McIntosh does him honour, and we hope, will give a tolerable complexion to the face of affairs in that quarter.

Orders have been issued to Coll. Bartram Galbraith, Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster, to call out four hundred men of that County. We have some doubt of the success of General De Haas, in an attempt to raise Volunteers upon the present occasion, and in our opinion it will not be adviseable for him to interfere with the legal mode of calling out the Militia. If the General can, contrary to our expectations, raise a body of Volunteers, it will undoubtedly be a very acceptable service to the State, and will most certainly meet with our approbation & thanks. Coll. Galbraith, expecting an order for calling the Militia, has taken such previous measures as affords us a pleasing expectation that the order will be expeditiously complied with.

T. M.

Directed,

Board of War.

Council to Lieutenants, (Circular,) 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, July 16, 1778.

Sir,

The Council, confiding in your known zeal, and your abilities as a general officer, have appointed you to take the command of the force raising for the defence of the States in the Neighbourhood of the river Susquehanna.

It is proper to acquaint you that Col. Broadhead's regt, now on a march to Pittsburgh, is ordered by the Board of War to the Standing Stone, and we have ordered three hundred Militia from Cumberland & two hundred from York County to join them. Part of Col. Hartley's regt, consisting of about one hundred men, are now on their march to Sunbury, by the way of Lancaster and Harris's ferry, to be joined by two companies lately raised at Wioming; and Council have ordered to this post, four hundred militia from Lancaster, three hundred from Northumberland, and one hundred & fifty from Berks county. The remainder of Col. Hartley's regiment, probably about eighty men, is ordered to march from New Jersey to Easton, where they will join Col. Kowatz's small party of horse & a small company from Wyoming under the command of Col. Butler, and we have ordered one hundred and fifty men from Berks & three hundred from Northampton county to join this force at Easton.

The Board of War will furnish the necessary supplies of provisions and ammunition. We are informed that Col. Hartley's regiment is furnished with thirty rounds of Cartridges a man, and have with them besides this quantity, ten thousand spare cartridges.

The rapid movement of the enemy down the river Susquehanna requires your immediate exertions to repel them, and thereby encourage the inhabitants of the frontier to return home, and to secure our people, if possible so as that they may reap their harvest in safety.

The uncertainty what movements the enemy will make, renders it impossible to give you any other than General orders for a vigorous exertion of your whole force for the security of the people; and we confide that your good understanding will improve every opportunity which may offer to the publick advantage.

General McIntosh, who commands to the westward, having rec'd intelligence of the ravages of the Indians, has we just now learn, ordered Col. Broadheads regt up the Susquehanna river.

Col. Jacob Stroude to John Wetzel, 1778.

Port Penn, July 17th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I just now, by express, received a letter from Judge Symens, informing me that Coshishton was entirely cut off yesterday morning by a parcell of torys & Indians, masacreing all Men, woemen & children, Even those that have been Captivated by them before and dismissed by them with certain badges of Distinction, and their reputed friends they threatned to cut off, & destroy Peanpeck this morning, which we expect, if they should incline to come on to Minisinks and this place; we shall be unable to prevent it, as we are but about 60 men strong now assembled, therefore I must beg a line from you directing me what to do, whether to retreat with the inhabitants or stand with a handful of men to be destroyed, or whether I can depend on relief, as we cannot hear any thing of relief coming; if you, in your wisdom, should think it Best for me to make as good a Stand as I can, I beg you will in all haste send me more ammunition, and you may depend on my taking all the care I can.

I am, Sir,

your humble Servt.

JACOB STROUDE, Colo.

P. S. I cannot moderate the Inhabitants to continue much longer without more assistance, and I beg your instructions as I have had none yet from you; and I assure you I think more danger than I apprehend you think of, and I assure you I cannot Stand nor keep my men here without more assistance.

J. S.

(Copy.)

John Nicholson.

Directed,

Letter from Colo. Stroud to John Wetzel, County Lt.

Thos. Levis to Council, 1778.

To the Honorable the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentn,

The Return of the Inimical Persons that I made to you there was a mistake, I aprehend by the Printer, as John Slayter was the person Intended to be Published, & John Taylor was Advertised in the Paper. As John Taylor is a friend to the States, I think it Jus-

tice to Clear his Carecter; Likewise, Lewis Tremble went to the Enemy at Philad., he is a Farmer in the Township of Ridley.

I am, Gent^{n},

Your Humble Servant,

THOMAS LEVIS.

July 18th, 1778.

Directed,

To the Honourable the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Council to John M. Nesbitt, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 18th.

Sir,

It has been mentioned in Council, that you have it in contemplation to raise a vessel, which was left by the enemy near League Island, at your own risque, if the Council have no objection to it, and that you will pay to the State, if the property be adjudged to belong to it, such reasonable value for her as impartial and judicious men shall say she is worth.

The Council consider the design to be laudable and fully approve of it.

By order of Council,

T'Y MATLACK, Sec'ry.

Message of Capt. White Eyes to Col. Geo. Morgan, 1778.

Capt. White Eye's Message to Col Geo. Morgan, dated at Coochocking, July 19, 1778.

Brother Tamiened:

According to your Desire I spoke once more to the Wiandots, but am Sorry that I must inform you that they will not listen to me, which they now have told me very plain.

Brother:

At a Treaty at Detroit the Nations have agreed to fall on the Delawares, & the Wiandots are to make the Beginning. It is always said we shall not listen to the Singing Birds, but now I have listened to them, because I believe it to be true. The reason why I believe it is, because two young Delawares have been there at the Treaty, Saw the Tomhawk handed to all y^{e} Nations, & it was also

given to them to carry to me, which I have now to expect soon; it was told at the same Time, that whosoever would not take the Tomhawk he should be whipped. I told you Brothers before, that if I should not take the Tomhawk they would try to force me to it, and now the Time cometh that they will do this, therefore you to Consider and to assist me.

Brother:

I have always told you that I shall hold fast to our friendship so long as the sun shall shine & the rivers run, & so my Heart is yet. I still hold fast to our Friendship, but you know that I am weak & am in Need of your assistance; if you do not assist me now as soon as possible I shall be ruined and destroyed, but if you will assist me now at this dangerous Time, then Nobody will then be able to break our Friendship.

A white String of Wampum.

Brother:

The Prisoners which are brought to Detroit, by the Warriors, will tell there all what they know & hear; they say that I tell you all what passeth when Warriors go by here, or that they heard I had been at the fort. I am blamed by the Nations that I betray them, therefore keep all what I tell you Secret; these two Messengers I send privately, & none of my People knoweth of it but I, because I cannot trust them, but am glad that I can inform you of this by these Messengers. We are afraid that the Road between us is watched by the Warriors, & therefore not safe for Messengers to travel, but of this the Messengers will be able to give you an account. Should you want to send a Message to me some time hence, appoint a Day, Time & Place, where our and your Messengers are to meet one another, perhaps at Sakunk, (Beaver Creek) or where you think proper, that we may get Intelligence from you, for it is very dangerous for your Messengers at this Time to come out here; of this let me know your mind, likewise by these Messengers.

Brother:

This is all I have to say this Time; you can easily see that I am frightned, and with my People in great danger, therefore consider and remember me, for I rely intirely on your Hilp & Assistance.

R. Stevenson, &c., to T. Matlack, 1778.

York, July the 20th, 1778.

Sir,

We take the oppertunity to inform Council that we have Sold the Personal Estates of James & John Rankins, the money arrising from the Sales have now in our hands, which we will shortly transmit; but as James Rankin is Considerably indebted in this and Lan-

caster County, would beg further instructions from Council where the Claiments are to apply for their money, and how the accounts of those who have not Bonds or Notes ought to be authenticated. We will shortly make proper Returns into your office of our Proceedings.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servts.

ROBT. STEVENSON,
MICH'L HAHN,
JAMES NAILER,
WILLIAM CHESNEY,
} Comrs.

To T. Matlack, Esqr.

COUNCIL TO BOARD OF WAR, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 20, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Council just now reced. your favour of this date. We informed you of the number of militia ordered out of the several Counties of this state, and the stations to which they were severally directed to repair, and they expect that orders have been of course issued by the Board of War for a supply of ammunition, to these & to all Volunteers, thro' the Commanding officer, as hath been heretofore done. In addition to this it appears to be necessary to put into the hands of John Carothers, Esqr, Lieut. of the County of Cumberland, in addition to what has been already ordered, about half a ton of Gunpowder; and into the hands of the Lieutenants of the Counties of Lancaster, Berks, and Northampton, about a ton, to be equally divided between them, with a due proportion of lead to each, for the use of the militia who may remain at home. Some Flints to each will be wanted. The Lead heretofore ordered to Col. Carothers we are informed has not been delivered.

It appears that there are arms enough in Northampton to put into the hands of the militia of that county; but, from the last returns made to Council, we dare not depend that any considerable number will remain after they are supplied; whatever this number may be will most certainly be applied to use as occasion may require. It has been suggested to us that Wm Henry, Esqr, of Lancaster, has from time to time furnished out State arms to the Continental troops until we fear that he will not have a sufficiency in his hands for the

militia now ordered into the field from that County. Should this prove to be the case we shall be deficient in arms for that quarter.

Names of the Lieutenants.

Lancaster, Bartram Galbraith,
Berks, Jacob Morgan,
Northampton, John Weitzel,
} Esq^rs.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, July 20th, 1778.

Sir,

The Accounts from the Frontiers of this State continue to be of the most alarming Nature. The Board have done every thing in their Power until they know what supplies are farther wanted, which they can only be informed of by your hon'ble Council. They have been informed that the State have at least 12,000 Stands of Arms at Allen Town, & therefore they presume you will, if it be not already done, order them into the Hands of the Militia, & on your Request the Board will direct the Commissary General of M. Stores to issue such Quantities of Ammunition as you may think proper to point out. The Persons to receive the same you will also be pleased to mention.

I have the Honour to be
with Respect
your very obedient Serv^t,
RICHARD PETERS.
By order of the Board.

Directed,

To Hon. George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of Pennsilvania.

T. Matlack to Col. Lambert Cadwalader, 1778.

Sir,

D^r Smith put into my hands Col^l Nicola's certificate respecting P. Bond, Esq^r. It is unnecessary to give you my sentiments respecting the parole, as it does not materially affect the question which you ask.

If M^r Bond should appear and take the oath of allegiance to the

state, I know of no reason to suppose that any part of his conduct previous to the entering of the enemy into the city would be now questioned. His leaving the city with the enemy, if that was the case, he will be capable of judging how far he can justify—and he will judge for himself What are the privileges to which persons now taking the oath are entitled. This it seems is become a law question.

I am, &c.,

T. M.

July 22nd, 1778.

Directed,

To Col^{o} Lambert Cadwallader.

Lewis Nicola to Council, 1778.

July 22d, 1778.

Sir,

M^{r} Crispin being at loss whether he was to issue my rations, agreeable to the allowance given by the state to the Gallies, or that allowed by Congress to the army, I applied to the president, who desired a state of both might be laid before the Council. I take the liberty to trouble you with the inclosed, & beg you will present them when the Councils leasure will permit.

I am, S^{r},

Your most obed. Serv^{t},

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}, Secretary to the Executive Council.

List of State Navy Rations.

10*s.*	10lb Beef ℔ man ℔ Week.
3	7lb Bread, or 6lb Flour, ℔ Man ℔ Week.
7	1 half Pint Rum, or in Lieu thereof, 1*s.* ℔ Man ℔ Day.
6	6*d.* Vegetables ℔ Man ℔ Week.
20*s.* 6*d.*	

QUANTITIES AND RATES OF RATIONS FROM 1ST JAN., 1778.

	£ s. d.
1lb Beef or Fish, or ¾lb Pork,	0 1 0
1½lb Bread or Flower,	9
1 Jill Liquor,	6
Soap,	2½
Candles,	1½
	£0 2 6

GEN. ARMSTRONG TO PRES. CONGRESS, 1778.

Carlisle, July 22d, 1778.

Sir,

The general Conversation of the Populace on the subject of an Expedition against Fort Detroit, together with the Observations of some Preparatives indicating such a Design, has induc'd me to lay before your Hon^r a few Considerations relative to that Measure, which, without further apology, I wish to do with equal Deference to *Congress*, and Confidence in the Candour of that respectable Body, that my Meaning will be conceiv'd in no other Light than that of the publick Weal and the Honour of the American Arms.

On the evident Discovery of the Indian Irruptions, I wrote and address'd to the Delegates of this State, in *Congress*, some Weeks before their Departure from York, a few promiscuous Thoughts on the Expedience of redressing these barbarous Murders by carrying the War into the Indian Country, (a Copy of which shall now take the Liberty to inclose) and in the Sequel of that Letter express'd an opinion against sending Troops to Detroit at present, founded on the following Considerations.

The Distance from Carlisle being upwards of five hundred Miles, the Country mountainous, and a great Part of it an inhospitable Desart. The Waggons and Pack Horses necessary for the Conveyance of Provisions, Forage, Bagage, Artillery, military and hospital Stores, &c., at a time when these Articles must be provided at an enormous Rate, will incur a large Expence.

The various Tribes of Indians to the right and left of the Rout from Fort Pitt to Detroit, together with those of the Invirons of that Place being now our Enemies, or at least a Majority of them, must greatly embarrass the March of our Troops and render their success very doubtful. The Savages, even when they profess Friendship,

have a known Reluctance to the Passage of an arm'd Force thro' their Country, and when ill dispos'd have much in their Power, so that to reclaim or subdue, at least a considerable Number of them appears to be requisite in the first Instance.

With Regard to the Importance of the Object itself, the Concomitants inclusive, permit me to say that in present Circumstances, it is by no Means adequate to the Risque and Expence of the Enterprize, the Garrison probably not exceeding three hundred Men.

The acquisition of military Stores thro' various Means of Disappointment, the Enemy commanding the Water Carriage, can be no great Inducement. Detroit has by many been call'd the source of all our Indian Ravages, no Doubt that Place has contributed to these, but is it not more probable that the Agents of the British King, Successors of Sir Wm. Johnston, diabollically wishing to distinguish themselves at this peculiar Crisis—who directs the Indian Measures, form the delusory and lying Speeches, dictate and compose the Indian presents, the Time and Place of Distribution, &c. That these, with the Authority and Sanction of the Governor of Canada, may with much more Propriety be considered as the Origin of our Indian Mischief in the present Conflict. Witness the Accounts of the Onidas to *General Washington*, who live far from Detroit, and the late Depredations on the east Branch of the Susquehanah, chiefly if not wholly from that Influence in the Circuit of Niagara and Johnston Hall.

It has also been said that a Possession of Detroit wou'd give the States an entire Ascendancy over the adjacent Tribes; this opinion I humbly conceive for a twelve Month past, nor even now can amount to no more than a local Prejudice. It is the Means of Ascendancy we want, not Places of Exertion. As soon as Congress can spare Troops and command Goods, there will be no Want of proper Places—rather happy it is that that Post has not yet been in the Hands of the States as they cou'd not possibly have retain'd it, which in the Events of a War and a late Alliance, may probably soon fall of Course.

Permit me only to add, that the present suffering State of the Frontiers, under the tedious Progress & uncertain Event of an Expedition against a remote Post, may prove insupportable, whilst their more immediate Remedy, by the Blessing of *God*, will naturally be look'd for in prudent and vigorous Attacks against the Enemy in their respective Towns, in this service (whilst the continental Army is otherwise engag'd) a proper Part of the Militia of sundry States may more readily be supposed to join Gen. McIntosh, or in a different part of the Country any other Commander, than on the occasion mention'd above.

The first and most natural Excursion wou'd appear to be up the Susquehannah or on a northern Direction, in Order to return the Visit of Mr. Butler & his Friends, but here we have no Person ac-

quainted with that Country, and its Circumstances, of which Intelligence at this time is much wanted.

I am, &c.

J. A.

The Honorable Henry Laurens.

A Copy.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, July 23d, 1778.

Resolved,

That Mr. Duer, Mr. Harvie, Mr. Holton, & Mr. Drayton, in conjunction with the committee appointed, or to be appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, be authorised to ascertain the property of the goods, wares & merchandize, in possession of the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, at the time it was evacuated by the enemy, viz., so far as to determine whether any or what part thereof may belong to the King of Great Britain, or to any of his subjects, agreeably to the resolution of the 4th June last.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Col. Thos. Proctor to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Philadelphia, 24th July, 1778.

Sir,

Whereas, the State Regiment of Artillery, which I have the honor to Command, are thro' Casualties attendant on an Army, exceedingly reduced—and whereas, by Establishment of Congress, each Reg^{t} of Artillery are to consist of Twelve Companies, Sixty men each, exclusive of Officers, cannot at this time produce more than Two hundred fourteen Men, Effective and non-Effective.

My Efforts to create men to strengthen my Reg^{t} has been my constant Study, am therefore induced to inform you, that without your particular Aid in supplies of Money for the purpose cannot further perform.

Many reasons prompt me to believe this to be a suitable time for Recruiting, and might be crown'd with success if suitably attended to; I therefore humbly intreat the Hon'ble the Executive Council to direct such Measures as the present Exigencies require.

I further beg leave to inform you, that the Officers of my Regt labour under the greatest Difficulties for the want of Cloathing, and have it not in their power to remedy it, as no kind of Cloathing can be purchas'd from Stores suitable for them, being seiz'd for the publick use by the Clothier General. To him I have made frequent application, verbally and otherwise, and in reply evasive Answers, so that I conceive it useless to make further application to him. The Regt of Artillery still continues under the Patronage of your Honorable House, and to you look for redress of Grievances.

I have the Honor to be,

Your Excellencies most

Obedt H'ble Servt,

THO. PROCTOR,

Colonel P. Artillery.

Directed,

The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Executive Council.

Col. Daniel Broadhead to ——— ———, 1778.

Muncey, July 24th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

You have been informed by General McIntosh that I was ordered to Wyoming to assist the inhabitants in repelling the enemy, which had invested that place. When I arrived at Sunbury I found it was too late to be of any Service to the inhabitants there, and my orders were so limitted that I could not have marched thither, and returned so as to reach Fort Pitt within the limitted time, therefore as I found that the inhabitants of Northumberland were flying and fled, I determined to fix on two principal posts and keep up a line of Scouts between them, but have since found it impracticable on account of the inaccessable mountains and thickets. The Scouts are, therefore, at present employed in watching the Indian paths, and Scouting so far towards the different posts as is practicable. A detachment, consisting of a major, two Captains, one Subaltern and eighty men, including Serjeants, are posted at Briar creek, a little below Nescopeck, on the north branch of the Susquehanna; a Captain and twenty five men are detached to Penns valley to take Post at General Potters and cover the harvesters, which are few in number, and one hundred and twenty at this post, which is of much importance. Yesterday, on being informed by a small Scout that the enemy were burning some of the buildings up the west branch, about ten miles off, I sent a captain and thirty nine men to endeavour to

intercept them; they returned late last evening, and the captain informs me that he discovered several places where the Indians, about ten in number, had lain, and slaughtered Swine, Sheep and cattle, part of the Swine were used by the Savages and part carried off. The buildings of several of the inhabitants were burning when the captain reached that place; he pursued their tracks until they had left the purchase before he returned, but could not come up with them. Last evening one of my centinels, at this post, discovered an Indian approaching in a Sculking manner towards him, and at the distance of a 150 yards fired at him, upon which the Indian ran off.

As I have but few days to remain with the distrest people, my anxiety for them is daily increased, and unless they meet with timely Succour, this country, which is really a fertile one, will undoubtedly be once more evacuated.

I have the honor to be,
with great regard and esteem,
Dr Sir, your most obedient Servant,
DAN'L BROADHEAD.

P. S. Great numbers of the inhabitants returned upon my approach, and are now collected in large bodies reaping their harvets.

General Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 24th July, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I am honoured with yours of the 6th Inst, likewise your several subsequent favours & agreeable enclosures, together with that of secretary Matlack, and beg you will in return accept my Cordial thanks. I cannot recite the dates, having put these papers into the hands of the Magistrates of the County, now sitting in Court, (who have not yet return'd them) as a favourable opportunity of acquainting the people with the situation of Council, and the late exertions thereof on behalf of the suffering frontiers, for whom every thing is done that at present could well be thought of. I wish how soon the arrangement may take place, hopeing it may at least be conducive to the security of some part of the harvest, an important point. We have not, lately, had any thing very particular from Northumberland, but expect, at least, that the greater part of the Enemy are retired. There is a report that two persons have lately been killed in Kishacoquillis, far within the circle of our guards, but hope it is not true.

There is some reason to believe that the whole of the Indian

tribes have not yet taken up the Hatchet against us, or are not become vigorous, otherwise the effects would have been more obvious, but that every exertion they have made, and in particular, the heavy blow at Wioming, is the plain result of British virulence no one can doubt, the expedition being planed, commanded, and in part, executed by whites, their emmissaries from the neighbourhood of Niagara or Johnston Hall. It is also natural to suppose the excursion is at the expence of Britain, & the plunder promised to the savages, which among other reasons induces me to believe they are for a short time returned to their own country, where, in all probability, they will soon make up one or more partys for the like purpose—nor is it altogether visionary to believe that this infamous descent has been designed as a stratagem in aid of the British arms, for the purpose of leading Congress more readily to listen to the proposals of that nation, or at least to prevent an incurtion upon their Country, by giving us enough to do at home, but in whatever light the affair can be taken, it is no state quarrel, & therefore ought to be a Continental expence. Congress, perhaps, may take a distinction betwixt defensive & offensive measures, the former so generally known to be ineffectual, tho' dictated in part by a sudden necessity of saving the harvest, also to prevent devastation of Country —these, too, are of publick utility, and tend to prevent that scarcity that might readily injure the common cause.

General Ried is a gentleman of great merit, & would be an acquisition in Government; his time of life, & many other circumstances concuring for useful service, but the duty, he may naturally think he owes to a young Family, will probably form a severe contrast, in which it is really hard to advise.

Your very acceptable favour of the 18th, just come to hand, gives me much ease in regard to General Potter, who living in Northumberland, and as I immagin now in the field with Volunteers, or, if attending his Harvest, ready to take it on the first occasion, the appointment of Gen^{l} Leacy to a Command there would not have been elligible, and must have been disagreeable to the feeling of Gen^{l} Leacy also, with whom as you rightly observe, Coll. Broadhead too, might have had some altercation, especially under the Idea of Volunteers, he undoubtedly would. However, forseeing what would probably happen with Gen^{l} Potter & Coll. Broadhead respecting the Command, & having advised the sending of the troops to that place, I brought that matter to a clear explication with the Colonel in the presence of General M^{c}Intosh, which was to this effect: In case of Volunteers only, be their numbers what they might, Gen^{l} Potter not being ordered out by Council nor the Commander-in-chief, Coll. Broadhead had no right, or rather was obliged not to give up his Command, tho' even in that case, if the Volunteers were numerous, gave it as private opinion that in point of prudence & military compliance, he might give it up to M^{r} Potter, but in case the latter were ordered out by authority of Government, at the head

of a regular Militia, there remained no doubt of the propriety of his command, to which the Genl. and Coll. Broadhead both explicitly agreed, the Coll. also promising that at any rate we should hear of no disputes. On the other hand, if any considerable body of the Militia should be disquiet or refuse that Command, no doubt where the Command of a general officer can be supposed necessary, General Leacy must be sent. I have thought that in any offensive measure, to retaliate the Conduct of Butler & his friends to the northward, would warrantably be the first, but know not any person acquainted with that Country, or the circumstances thereof, and that that intelligence & the preparatory steps first taken, that unless a general officer from the Continental line were appointed, General Potter might command some enterprize to that Quarter, at least against some Indian Town or Towns, if not far apart, hopeing that such militia as might be engaged would not, on this occasion, make any objections to Mr Potter, and knowing as they must do, that unless some unknown necessity should arise, an effort of that sort would be impracticable for me. I shall endeavour to learn how his command would sit, and have by every means been removing the prejudice, as at once, I think a pity of the Man, and that notwithstanding some mistakes, he is both disposed and capable of rendering good service at this time. On the Torie affair at Philada, that subject being much out of my way, I am able to say but little, only that it is an important one, not only in point of true policy but that the eyes of many will be upon Government respecting it, and altho' I am for the general line of lenity & forgiveness, making as little sacrifice to the passions & prejudices of the populace as possible, and far from condemning men, where it appears they differed only in mere political sentiment, without giving any the least actual opposition to us or voluntary aid to our Enemies, yet am of opinion that a few examples ought to be made of the more attrocious, that in the highest degree they ought to be but few, and with as little delay as possible.

I have taken the liberty of throwing out a few considerations with regard to the intended expedition against Detroit, addressed to his honr the President of Congress, which if of any weight, are against that design at present, and shall enclose you a copy by this or the next conveyance.

I am, Sir,

with great respect,

Your Most humble servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

26th. Coll. Broadhead has been kind enough to favour me with letters of the 23d Inst, relating to the return of the people, and forming themselves into certain Companies for the security of the harvest, in which he says they do pretty well. He is Encamped at

Muncy—keeps up a Patrole—sends forth scouting parties, one of whom have lately tracked about Ten Indians in number, until they had gone out of the purchase, meaning, I suppose, up the West Branch —found several houses lately burnt—sheep, cattle & swine killed. At his own camp, as I understand him, one & only one Indian hath been discovered creeping up and fired on by a centinel, who then ran off. There are at present no volunteers with Coll. Broadhead, the harvest requiring their attendance. He has sent an officer & 25 to a Fort at General Potter's, to assist in that neighbourhood, we hear there are some late murders committed betwixt the Alleghany & the Laurel Hills. It will be intolerable, I fear, to spend the Fall season on the defensive. It is the best season to annoy the Indians.

J. A.

Directed,

The honourable Geo. Bryan.

Samuel Wallis to Colonel T. Matlack, 1778.

Muncy, July 24th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

I make no doubt but you have been long before this time fully acquainted with the distressed situation of this County, & you will Observe by the Petition to Council, that Col. Hunter, upon hearing of y^e^ Melancholy event at Wyoming, Immediately call'd all the Troops which were stationed at the little stands through the County to the Town of Sunbury; this gave such alarm to the People in general, that even the Inhabitants of Sunbury moved away, and before I reached that place with my family, Colonel Hunter had actually moved his family & all his Valuable Effects away, & was himself, as well as every Other Inhabitant of that place, in readiness to fly; & Confident I am that the apearance of half a Doz^n^ Indians in that Neighbourhood would have struck a panick through the Confused Multitude, that in less than 48 Hours there would not have been 10 men left in the whole County; nor do I believe that a single family would have been now in the County had not it have been for the approach of Col Broadhead; and be assured that unless the Colonel with his Reg^t^, or some other Continental Troops can be stationed amongst us, that the whole County will be evacuated in a very short time; it will be in vain to amuse the People with saying a single word to them about the Militia, unless some Continental Troops are mixed with them. Such confusion has already happened by trusting to the Militia here, that I can & do declare for myself, that I will not stay a single moment longer than I can help after

being assured that we are to be protected by them only. We were amused some time ago with a resolve of Congress for raising 100 six months men in this County, & Col. Hunter was pleased to assure the Counsil that the men would be readyly raised, when he at the same time knew, & was pleased to declare, in private conversation, that it was Impossable to raise 100 men amongst People so much confused & alarmed. This kind of Conduct from Col. Hunter, as well as a number of our other leading men, has brought us to the pass you now find us, & unless some speedy Interposition in our behalf, I do again with great Confidence assure you that we shall be no Longer a People in this County, & when the matter will end God only knows. For particulars I refer you to the Barir, Mr. Penington, who is a man of Strict Integrity, and will enform you of every Minute Circumstance—he will be the Barer of a Petition from a number of the People to Council—your friendly assistance in getting the prayer of that Petition Complyed with will be rendering essential service to this County, & greatly Obliging your ready friend & very Hum'l Serv^{t},

SAM^{L} WALLIS.

NB. I have not time nor roome at present to say a single word more than to acknowledge the receipt of your letter from Lancaster, & that I shall pay a strict attention to its contents as soon as I possibly can.

S. W.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq'r, in Philadelphia.

℔ favour of Mr. Penington..

Gen'l James Potter to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Penns Valley, July 25th, 1778.

D^{r} Sir,

The Inhabitance of this Valley are all Returned, and Cuting there Greain. I left Sunberry last Sunday afternoon, the people are Returning to all parts of the County, altho I am Convinced the will not all Return, as there was a great Number of Tenants who will not Return. I am in Hopes that the greatest part of the Greain will be seaved, the loss that this County has sustained is verry great by Runing away in the manner they did, I think 40,000 pounds would not make good the losses. Col. Broadheads coming to this County at the time he did will do great service to it.

I Cant Help Expressing my fears of the Inhabitance sufring in Cuting their Harvistes, the Militia are so slow in turning out, the Gaurds are weake, we have in this pleace one Capt, two Sargts, 25 men for two forts; yesterday evening two men of Capt'n Finley's Company, of Col. Brodhead's Reg't, went out from this place in the plains, a little Below my fields, and met a party of Indians, not exceeding five in Number, whome they engaged, and on the first fire, one of the Soldiers, named Thomas Van Doran, was shot dead on the spot, the other, Jacob Shedacer, Ran about 400 hundred yards, and was persuwed by one of the Indians, both their guns were unloaded, they attacked each other with their Knives, our Gallant Soldier Killed his Antagonist; But hard was his feat, for after this Hard won Victory, for so it really was, another Indian came up and shot him, so that he and the Indian that he last Killed, lay within two perch of each other; it is the opinion of us that saw the ground, that one or two Indians was killed or wounded, where the engagement first began, thus Greatly Died our two worthey Soldiers, and sold their lives at such a price as no enemy would be fond of purchasing at—what Soldier at his Death, would not wish to purchase such Lorels as is Justly due to those brave men? These Soldiers served with Col. Morgain in the last Campain.

These enemys are allways Taking off some one or other, this day week they Killed a man and a woman near the standing stone, and there being no Gaurd there it ocasioned the Inhabitance all to Run away and leave their Greain, some Cut and some not.

The Distress of this Cuntrey is great, and there is no Reale Remedy under Heaven But by Carring war in too our Savidge enemy's Cuntrey, you Cant conseave the pleasure it would give me to see it dun.

When the Militia that the Councal Has ordered out Come hear, I will go and station them on the frunteers and give them Orders, I do not just approve of the Orders that have Been given, when it is dun I will let Councal know the Disposion.

I am, Dr Sir, your Most
Obedient and Respectfull
Humble servant,
JAs POTTER.

P. S. The Enemy in the action with the two Soldiers left 3 guns, two thomhaks, &c.

Directed,
George Bryan, Esq.

Board of War to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

War Office, July 27, 1778.

Sir,

This moment the inclosed letter came to hand. The information it contains shews the necessity of hastening up the militia destined for the relief of y^e^ frontiers. It seems probable that the main body of the enemy are withdrawn, & the residue divided into small parties that may do infinite mischief. Be so kind as to return the letter when read.

y^r^ obed^t^ servant,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

The Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^r^, Vice President, &c.

John Lesher to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Oley, 27th July, 1778.

Sir,

By a late Act of General Assembly of this Common-Wealth, Commissioners were appointed in every County to purchase & collect Provisions & Forage, for the better supplying the army of the United States; In consequence thereof, as I was nominated one of the commissioners for Berks County, I received Instructions from Col. Jonathan Mifflin, who was appointed Superintendant for this district, in which instructions among several other articles, I was directed to employ & engage two Millers, two Coopers & two men to furnish Staves & hoop poles, which Persons were to engage for one year, and in consequence thereof should be deemed in Continental Service and be absolutely free from all Militia duty for that term. Agreeable thereto, & directions from the Honourable the Executive Council, authorizing me to employ such assistants & assistance as might appear expedient for carrying on said business; I employed a Miller, two Coopers & two men to furnish hoop poles & Staves, on condition they should be free from Militia Service, & they have been engaged in that service ever since, by which I have been enabled to furnish the army with a considerable quantity of Forage & near 800 Barrels of Flour already sent off. But as it happens that all these Men are in some one or other of the four Classes now called, I find I am under

the necessity of letting them be taken away to do their Tour of Duty or paying their fines, which at 40 pounds ℔ man, amounts to a considerable Sum. Should these men be taken away it will Put a total stop to my furnishing the army with any further supplies, will be a considerable disappointment to me in many respects, & more to the Public, as daily demands are made on me, & will I presume be contrary to what I might expect from Reason & the nature of my directions. On application to the County Lieutenants who Preside at the Military Department, those Gentlemen signify that as there is no particular Provision made in the Militia act for exemptin such persons tho' highly reasonable, they are not entirely free to discharge them, but on the least Item from Council signifying their approbation therein, they would gladly acquiese in so Just & necessary a measure.

Now Sir, as you & the Honourable Body of which you are President, have most perfect knowledge of every matter here stated, I most humbly request, that out of your great goodness, you will signify your pleasure herein to those Gentlemen, or otherwise as you in your Wisdom shall think proper, in order to remove all Doubts concerning the Premises, for the Issue whereof I shall most chearfully wait, fully Relying on the Candor, Wisdom and Justice of your Honourable Body.

I would not be thought hereby to have the most distant wish of screening any individual Person from doing his Tour of Duty, but on the contrary, it is my ardent desire to do my Country the most material Service in my power.

I am Sir, with the
highest esteem your
most obed^{t} Hum^{e} Serv^{t},
JOHN LESHER.

Directed

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, July 29, 1778.

Sir,

Before y^{e} receipt of the inclosed papers, the Board & a committee of Congress had reported a resolve for continuing Col. Hartley's reg^{t} on the frontiers until the harvest was got in, & the fears of the inhabitants had subsided, to which Congress agreed. We have also written to Col. Brodhead desiring him to remain there as long as

possible consistent with his orders to be at fort Pitt in season for the western expedition.

We are Sir,

your obed^{t} Serv^{ts},

By order of y^{e} board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President, &c.

Gen. Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 29th July, 1778.

Dear Sir,

You favours of the 23^{d} & 25th Inst., including news papers are come to hand, for which I am greatly indebted. Yesterday my letters wrote at some length went off to you, but for want of a better conveyance, by a person who must take Reading in his way, & cover a copy of that addressed to President Laurens, the last paragraph whereof, will coincide with your Ideas to the Northward. It's said there is a Doctor at Sunbury, whom the Enemy detaine'd some days at Wioming to dress their wounded, who says he apprehends they yet keep possession of that Fort, that various inhabitants there have taken their protection; and that 400 Senecas had set out for the West Branch or the Alleghany Mountain, before he was dismissed. I hope the man or his examination on oath is sent to Town. I see the last has been an extensive blow, & there are a few left for detatched mischief & to act as spies for intelligence.

Beyond all question the Seneca Towns & others Northward ought to be the first mark, in such an expedition General Gates is right, & when it is formed, Wioming, Chery Valley, &c., will be the direct Route of such of our Troops as march from Northumberland, so that these on defensive duty there, whether Regulars or Militia, will be so far on their way; & it is of great importance that Congress have guides, and good intelligence of that Country. Wou'd the Onidas be guides, reconoitre, give intelligence, &c. ? their Clergyman might pick from among them such as might be trusted, he going also. Indeed I should immagin that for some short time, that little tribe will be obliged to come under the wing of Congress at any rate, and cou'd wish their Minister were immediately sent for, I saw him at Morristown & think him valuable. General Washington's advice on the whole of this occasion will be very proper to have,

and General Ried with the materials he may now be possessed of can fully write him with the concurrence of Congress or the Board of War. My indisposition since the hot weather has prevented my writing to him of late.

There must also be an excursion from Ft. Pitt, there is time & strength enough for it; the back Militia of the States must be taken under their own officers for the Expedition, & will no doubt be subject to any chief Command that Congress shall think proper. Both Bodies must be pretty respectable & sometimes capable of detachment. There is no time to lose to prepare Gen. McIntosh for the Western & some other person for the Northern attack. In my next may say something on the article of sustainance, as by the haste of the bearer I can only add that I am,

Sir, your most
Respectful humble Servt,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed.

On Public Service.
The Honorable George Bryan, Esqr, Vice President of the State of Pennsa., Philadelphia.
Favoured by Doctor McKinzey.

Council to President of Congress, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 29, 1778.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council of Pennsylvania to apply to you for blank Commissions, for private ships of War. The six which you were pleased to forward are filled up, but the Bond for the last is not yet compleated, as the Gentlemen who are to sign are not in the City. The whole six Bonds shall be delivered to you in a few days. As there is now a Gentleman waiting for a Commission, I shall thank you for such a number as you may think to send me immediately.

And am with the greatest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient & very humble Servt,
T. M.

Directed,

To Hon'bl Henry Laurens, Esq., Prest., &c.

Council to Capt. Joseph Blewer, 1778.

Philadelphia, July 30, 1778.

Sir,

The Council observe that there is some good Timothy-grass on Mud-island, which if neglected will perish. They recommend it to you to give notice to such persons (by writing or otherwise) as you shall judge likely to purchase it, and sell it for such reasonable price as you can obtain for it, and credit the state wth the money.

I am respectfully

Yours, &c.,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Mons. Gerard to Congress, 1778.

Translation from the original letter of Monsr. Gerard, 1778.

His Excellency M. the Count D'Estaing, Commander in Chief of his most Christian Majesties Forces on the Coast of North America, having sent here, at the disposal of the underwritten, Mr. William Straker, taken on board the English Ship the Lord How, as well as Five Negro slaves he had with him, His most Christian Majestics Minister has the Honour to desire Congress will please to give immediate Orders that the said William Straker may be put into Prison, and there kept and treated as is usual with Prisoners of his condition, And that his five negro slaves be delivered to the disposal of the underwitten.

GERARD.*

At Philadelphia, July 30, 1778.

Indorsed,

Read 30 July, 1778. Referred to board of war.

* See Aug. 6, (postea) also Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 553.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, August 1st, 1778.

A letter of the 31st July from the board of war was read, representing that "pursuant to the orders of Congress, Cornelius Sweers has been secured in such manner as the board deemed sufficient, while it remained in a degree doubtful whether or not he had been guilty of frauds against the States; that the matter being now reduced to a certainty, & the sums deficient amounting to many thousand pounds, the board are uneasy at his remaining guarded only by sentries, and those of raw troops." Whereupon

Ordered, That Cornelius Sweers, deputy commissary general of military stores, now in custody by order of this House, be immediately closely confined in the public goal within this city, and that he be charged with mal-conduct in his said office, generally and particularly with the crime of forgery.

Ordered that the executive council of the State of Pennsylvania be requested to direct the keepers of their goal to receive into custody and safely keep the said Cornelius Sweers.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Samuel Rea to Council, 1778.

Mount bethel, Northampton County,
August the 1st, Anno Dom., 1778.

Sir,

I send you herein inclosed the Names of those that are supposed to have Gone to the Inemy, who have not yet been Cal'd upon by Proclamation; and also my certificate of having taken the Oath of Office, and an Inventory of the Estate of Jacob Wood, which I have Ceized upon. I should be glad of a few lines from Council, with Directions of what shall be Done with the Estates, Real and Personal, and the familys of those that is supposed to have Gone to Join the Enemy, and have not yet been Call'd upon by the Proclamation. As the Effects may be squandered away before the Certainty is known. I have no Return to make of any Ceizures by an order of the late Council of Safety.

I am, Sir,
With Respect,
Yours, &c.,

SAML. REA.

N. B. I have also Seiz'd upon Twenty pounds of Cash in the hands of the Constable, & Late the property of Joseph Stackhouse, Jun., who hath been Cal'd upon by Proclamation, upon which I understand there is Lawful Claims.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To Timothy Matlack, Secretary in Philadelphia.

Thomas Scott to T. Matlack, 1778.

Westmoreland, August 1st, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Various are the Reports I have heard since I left you, respecting the movements of the armys, &c., but I have not been able to gether any well authenticated acc^{t}. My anxiety on this score, and knowledge of your readiness to oblige, excites me to beg you will send me a short history of what hath hapened since the evacuation of Philad^{a}, together with the present state of afairs, or general face of things. The way of conveyance which I would propose at present, is by Mr. Bailey's, in Lancaster, where if you can send it in 25 days, from this date, it will come to my hand immediately by the bearer hereof on his return.

The Indians have made several breaches on the inhabitants of late in diferent parts of this country. Cap^{t}. Miller, of the 8th Penn^{a} Regi^{t}, with a party of nine men, chiefly Continental soldiers, were Bringing grain from the Neighbourhood to a Fort called Fort Hand, about 14 miles North of Hannas Town, on the seventh of last month, and on their return were surprised by a party of Indians, who lay in wait for them, and killed the Cap^{t} & seven others. Pray make my compliments to Council, & inform any of them who would favour me with a line, of the above opportunity of conveyance. I expect to see you in October, and am, with great respect,

Sir,

Your most obed^{t},

Humble Servant,

THO. SCOTT.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Council, Philadelphia.

Col. Thomas Hartley to Council, 1778.

Gentlemen,

I came here a few Days since with a Detachment of my Regiment and some Militia.

Gen[l] Dehaas had come up (I presume) with an Intention of assisting and supporting the People. He had detached sundry partys of Militia to protect the Inhabitants.

Upon my arrival I have taken the Command. Upwards of 200 Militia have came to Sunburey. I shall dispose of the Regulars and Militia to the best advantage, and shall give the Country every support and assistance in my Power.

Four fifths of the Inhabitants fled with such Effects as they could carry from this Country. Many of the men are returning, but unless I can support four or five Posts between the Great Island and fishing Creek, I fear few of the women will return again to their former Habitations. A most extraordinary panic seems to have struck the People.

The Wyoming Settlement is almost totally destroyed. The most of the surviving Inhabitants have fled to Connecticut, or are now removing as Paupers to that state. There is no prospect of their returning or reestablishing themselves at Wyoming this Fall. But much may be done in Favour of this County. Nothing shall be wanting on my Part.

The two Wyoming Companies were to have joined me here according to my Instructions, They are now in Northampton County, where there is also a Detachment of my Regiment. I have applied to the Board of War for the Detachment of my Regiment in Northampton to join me, and the two Wyoming Companies to remain there.

This will, in my opinion, be of great advantage. I would hope this Application will be secconded by the Council. The Danger in Northampton is not so great. The Posts I would maintain would in a great measure cover the Frontiers of this and Cumberland Counties. The Detachment of my Regiment would be more useful to me than the two Companies, though they do not differ much in Numbers.

I am, with great Respect,
Your most obed't,
& most humble Serv[t],

THOS. HARTLEY.

Sunbury, Aug. the 1st, 1778.

Directed,

On publick service.

To the Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philad[a].

Council to John Lesher, 1778.

Sir,

I layed your Letter of the 27th July before Council. They think it strange that you are under any difficulty about the Miller, Coopers & Stave-hewers you mention, as, in pursuance of the countermand of Congress, they, on the day of last, did desire you to desist from the further purchase of Wheat and Flour. This being the case, there seems to be no ground at present for the difficulty, nor no cause for seeking for exemption from Militia Duty. Besides, something like this was debated in the Assembly not long since, & denied; judge, then, how ill it would become Council to suppose it a case forgotten, & countenance the dismissing of the men in question.

I am, Sir,

Yr most obed't Servt,

G. B., Vice Prst.*

Philadª, Augt, 1778.
To John Lesher, Esqr, Oley.

Council to Mrs. Galloway, 1778.

Philadelphia, 3d Augt, 1778.

Madam,

I have not been inattentive to your discourse, which you honored me with some days since at your house; business has prevented this answer being earlier made.

When a lady marries, (unless by a special reserve of her lands in the hands of Trustees, made before the contract,) the use and profits of the real estate belonging to her rests in her husband for and during their joint lives, and if children be born then for his life. This estate, so acquired by wedlock, the gentleman can sell. It may be seised by creditors and applied to their relief; And it may be lost by attaint, and then it devolves to the publick as a forfeiture. But the moment the husband dies it returns to the widow, or if she be deceased to her children or other heirs. This, the Gentlemen of the law, say is the case, as well here as in England. However, they remark that corruption of blood, which in Europe destroys the heretable capacity of the children, and gives a fathers lands to the State, even where he is only tenant for life, is abolished in Pennsylvania; and further, that in every case of attaint for treason, support for the wife and children shall be awarded by the Judges of the Supreme Court, out of the estate of the husband. What may be

* See pages 667, 422, 431, 437.

thought proper in your case I profess myself very ignorant, yet it is probable it will be most convenient for you and the publick too, that such allowance be made out of the paternal estate, lost by you, for the uncertain term of Mr. Galloways natural life.

No one can more regret the occasion of this communication, yet believe me to be,

Madam,

Your most obedient Servant,

Signed, GEORGE BRYAN.

To Mrs. Galloway.

Copy.

James Young to Col. Melchior, 1778.

Philad^{a}, 4th Augst, 1778.

Sir,

I receiv'd your application for four Waggons or Carts to hawl Wood for the Barrack Masters Department. I am to inform you that by an Act of Assembly of this State, that all applications to me for Waggons are to be made by the Quarter Master General, or on the demands of the Honb. Congress, the Supreme Executive Council, &c., in sudden emergencies, I therefore cannot give any Orders to supply your Department—Waggons cannot be got to supply the great demands made on me for the Army.

I am,

Your Obed^{t} Serv^{t},

JAMES YOUNG, W. M. G., P.

Directed,

Col^{l} Melchior, B. M. Gen^{l}. Present.

Col. Proctor to Board of War, 1778.

Philadelphia, August the 4th, 1778.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen:

The Occasion of my present address to you is from the frequency of being sollicited and Importuned by the Officers of my Battallion, to fill up the several promotions that stand open for them a considerable time past, I therefore beg leave to present you with a Just State of the promotions that should have taken place at the several times they became Vacant, in order that your honourable Board may

give to those Senior Officers who Merited as a reward of their Services, the doing of which at time will fully prevent several resignations, Intended by some of my best Officers who Experience a too Scanty subsistance, cannot support the dignity of their Stations as gentlemen, occasioned only by the dearness of every Article they stand in need to purchase.

Further, the present state of the Battallion of Artillery I have the honour to command, being at this time reduced to only Two hundred and twenty Effective & non-effective, (Officers included,) Not having the advantage of sending officers recruiting since July, 1777, as the other Battallions of Artillery had done. General Knox having informed me that recruits would be provided for me by the State of Pennsylvania, as the Battallion was raised for its defence, but have to this time received no supplies of that nature. Since my arrival here I have made application to the Executive Council for Monies to recruit men to fill up my Battallion. I had but a Verbal answer, which gave me to understand my Battallion was not considered in their Quota, Colonel Hartley having come in with his Regiment to fill up the last number the required for the State. At this time I have the fairest prospect for recruiting men, and have been in that point very successfull since I arrived in this City, and tho' I have ever made it my endeavour to create Numbers in my Battallion, must desist for a season, untill supplied with Cash for the purpose, having Expended all the Monies I could furnish for the business of recruiting.

The Honourable Board of War taking the premises into consideration, will order such redress as is necessary.

I am with due respect,
your Honours most obd^{t}
and H'ble Serv^{t},
THOMAS PROCTOR,
Col. Pennsylv^{a} Artillery:

The Honourable the Board of War
for the States of America.

Committee of Congress to Council, 1778.

Mess^{rs} Richard H. Lee and Samuel Adams, a Committee of Congress, present their respectfull Comp^{ts} to the Hon. the Vice President & Council of the State of Pennsylvania, and beg the favor of them to order a sufficient number of Peace Officers to prevent any Interruption of the Minister of France, in his Passage to and from the Congress Chamber, this day.*

Aug. 6th, 1778.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 548. For an account of his reception see Reg. Penn'a, Vol. IV., p. 102.

Lodick Sprogell to T. Matlack, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to Order of Councill, I have endeavoured to compleat a Muster of the Pennsyl. State Fleet, but as yet find it impracticable, am obliged to allow them still longer time, some being out of town, and in general so scattered about, their is a necessity to wait till they collect their people together. Please to inform Councill that I will compleat it as soon as possible, and wait upon them with it.

I am, Sir,

Y^r^ most humb. Serv.

LOD'K SPROGELL, M. M. G. of P.*

Thursday, 6th Aug^st^, 1778.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esqr.

State of Facts Relative to Mr. Straker, 1778.

March, 1772.—I came in this City (Philadelphia) with my wife, who is a native to this place.

In April, 1772—I enter'd into Copartnership with Mr. Budden, B^r^ to Mrs. Straker, of this City, Merchant, for the term of seven years, which term is not yet expired.

In April, 1775—I was under the necessity of going to Barbados, in order to settle our affairs there, which amounted to many thousand pounds, & have never yet been able to make a final settlement.

Upon my finding matters relative to America not likely to be made up, I concluded to return to this place, where the most of my fortune lay, & give my mite towards Establishing that freedom I always thought it Intitled to.

During my stay abroad I have not drawn my money out of the Country, but have sent bills to my partner, who has on account of the Company lent the States near ten thousand pounds, which is now in their hands.

I understood, before I left Barbados, I cou'd get out of this city to my partner, which being my full determination, I sail'd from thence in June last, with my family for Philadelphia, having no Goods on board but one cask Spiritt & one of Sugar, for family use.

During my residence in Barbados I was frequently insulted by the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 546.

name of a rebelious rascal, and an attempt to pull my house down, my books being oblig'd to be hid for fear of their being burnt.

In respect to my negroes I never used any servants in my house, but blacks, five I carried from Philadelphia, and the same quantity I brought back, which Mr. Coombs, the Elder, can vouch for, as he used to receive the regular tax.

In addition to the above, I would beg leave to observe, I vested part of my property in freehold or landed Estate in this Country, which I yet hold, & ever looked on myself as a Citizen & Denizen thereof, and since my arrival have complied with every requisite of law by taking the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

WM. STRAKER.

Philadelphia, August 6, 1778.

That I had purchased a Vessel in order to return to Philadelphia, but having sprung a Considerable leak, making three feet water in one hour, I took my passage on board the ship Lord Howe, who intended into New York, which port I imagined a vessel might easily be procur'd to transport myself & family to my destin'd port.

WM. STRAKER.*

Printed Form of Certificate of having taken Oath, 1778.

I do hereby Certify, That William Straker, of the City of Philad^a, Merch^t, Hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity, as directed by an Act of General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed the 13th day of June, A. D., 1777. Witness my hand and seal, the Sixth day of August, A. D., 1778.

[L. S.] Jno. Ord.

N°. 1493.

The Deposition of Archibald Hambleton, 1778.

The Deposition of Archibald Hambleton, during the time he was Prisoner with James Fitzpatrick and Mordecai Dougherty. That on 9 day of July, 1778, he, y^e Deponent was Reaping in y^e field of James Shield, when y^e s^d Fitzpatrick and Dougherty came to them & told Shield he had bowrowed his wach, a pair of Silver buckels and Shoes, Shield insisted he should return them, but y^e other returned

* See page 671: also, See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 553.

for answer that depended on his behavior toards him, and swore that if Hambleton did not immediately surrender himself his prisoner he would take his life; he, y^e s^d Hambleton, wass taken by them to his fathers, where y^e rob'd him of a Rifil Gun, powder horn & shot Pouch, then got y^e Bible and forc'd him to swear that he would not follow him or betray him, or to disturbe any of his Neighbours or friend on his account, & if he did he would come and burn their house, and Likewise y^e houses of all the Rebels in y^e Neighbourhood; that y^e s^d Fitzpatrick and Dougherty both threatened the Lives of Joseph Lickey, Andrew Michael, Will'm Hannah, John Willey, John Newby, Will'm Donoley, John Cuninham, and that y^e s^d deponant is affraid to Return home to his lawfull business on their account, and further saith not.

ARCHIBALD HAMBLETON.

Gen. Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 6th August, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Your favours of the 29–30th July, & of the 1st Inst., with the Newspapers, are duly & very thankfully rec'd. Here we are at present happy enough to have but very little News. Coll. Broadhead, with his Reg^t, is return'd to this place on his way to Fort Pitt, the Baggage, &c., having been left here.

As an Excursion is to be made into the Enemies Country, N. ward, by Coll. Morgan, &c., I am opinion that Coll. Hartleys & the Militia, now going out, are fully sufficient on the defensive, & may be able to gratify the people of Cumberland & Northumberland in that line of duty. The Northern Expedition I have much at heart, and therefore wished (as I think is expressed in my last to you) that the Body proceeding by the way of Cherry Valey might have been joined by a different Corps, viz., Coll. Hartleys, and a number of our Militia, taken either as Volunteers for the Expedition, but subject to military command, and excused of their succeeding tour under the Law, if they chose y^t alternative, or by culling the fit persons from the Classes when drawn out, the residue to be discharged in a few days after the march of the Body—The place of rendezvous at *Wioming*, or if more convenient, the junction to be formed still higher on the Sasquehanah, at Tiahoga; thence to proceed by the most direct rout to the Seneca Towns as the first mark, leaving all the inferior Tribes to be subdued by traverse marches, or by detachment on the return, or at least their Villages & produce destroyed. For this great purpose, together with the notice to be taken of some whites who have lately done us much injury, not less than three thousand men, under a good commander, ought to penetrate that country, in order to do effectual service, and prevent the

necessity of any farther effort on that quarter for the present season. It may facilitate the business to be able to detach occasionally—a Provision guard, at least with the articles of flour & salt, ought to remain at some convenient station, erecting to themselves a small fortress, and wait the return of the troops, or reinforce them if requisite. Guides are of great consequence, and must, I presume, be taken from the State of New York. A few trusty Onidas, if they will undertake, together with a few white men, may best answer the purpose. Thot's of this sort, as an entire stranger to the Country, are the best I can form, but from y^r^ accounts the troops already sent from our Army, joined as they may be by the New York Militia, they will probably make the effort, without time for, or reference to any farther assistance, but wou'd not be worse for being joined by Coll. Hartley at least, provided they come near Wioming. If any of these thoughts may properly be suggested to the Board of War, or of those contained in my last, General Ried, or any medium you please will serve that purpose, but there is no time to lose.

With respect to General Potter, I am of opinion he shou'd immediately be Order'd to take the Command of the State Militia on the waters of the Sasquehanah, provided the number amount to Six or Seven hundred men, or upward—at least for some short time, even on the defensive. His situation, knowledge of the Country, &c., appears to call for this. As to the matter of doubt respecting him, it will not be any objection with the Militia now called, that is the 1st & 2d Classes of this County, & in case of an excursion on the offensive when other Classes may be wanted, if the difficulty shou'd then appear, it may be before known & some expedient taken, as in the mean time I cannot see how Council can well avoid making him the offer.

It were much to be wished that Dr. Franklin's favourable character of the Americans were litterally true, the coulerings are rather high. It is, however, calculated for his purposes, & a good copy for imitation. We have not heard the name of the Lady by whom the offer was made, nor whether Gen'l Ried has made it known. How is your health at present—are you able to keep your station thro' the warm weather? The vexatious things, but too likely to happen about this time, are truly matter of regret, & the late demand made on Council for a certain House is beyond my conception, but especially the menace annexed to it! You did well, however, to make it known to Congress, & it's happy at a crital hour to be convenient to advice.

I am, dear Sir, with great truth,
Your much obliged humbl. Serv^t^.
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Our opportunities of writing from hence rather decline, I must, however, on private business, write Mr. Hoge by the next I can find.

Directed.—The Honourable Geo. Bryan.

Col. Jno. Piper to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Aug^{t} 7th, 1778.

Honour^{d} Sir,

I By this opportunity beg leave to Lay before you the Distressed Situation of the frontiers of Bedford County, from the frequent Encursions of the Savages into our Settlements, Have oblidged us to call a number of Militia upon duty to prevent the total devastation of our Country; we are much distressed in this county for want of a proper Person apointed Pay Master to enable us to discharge this unavoidable but necessary Expence, I would therefore aply to y^{r} Honour for direction which is the proper channel through which I ought to apply for a suply of cash as our distance from fort Pitt Renders it almost impossable to aply there for every suply of cash that is necessary in hopes Sir, youl pleas to consider our Situation and Grant sutch Council and Direction as to your Honour May apear most Elligable.

Am with all Due respect,
your Honours most
obed^{t} Humble Serv^{t},
JOHN PIPER.

P. S. I Receiv^{d} an order from the Board of war for three hundred w^{t} of Powder and Six hundred w^{t} of Lead for the use of this county.
JNO. PIPER.

Edw. Shippen to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Lancaster, 7th August, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Understanding by the Attorney General Mr. Sergeant, that the office of Clerk of the several Courts at Reading was vacant by Mr. Read's absolutely declining to accept of them, and having been long in that kind of Employment, I thought it would be worth my attention to apply for them, my age prevented my application for the offices in this County, as the times were so troublesome and I could not bustle about like a young man. But now that we are likely to enjoy some tranquility, I think I can without much trouble continue to execute such offices. You would much oblige me by making men-

tion of this matter to the Honourable the Council and using your Interest with them in my Favour.

I am Dr Sr your

affectionate Friend &

most humble Servt,

EDW. SHIPPEN.

Directed,

The Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President.

JONA. D. SERGEANT TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Lancaster, August 7, 1778.

Sir,

You will recollect the Anxiety which I have often expressed to have some fit person appointed to the office of Prothonotary of Bucks County; since I have been here, I have mentioned the subject to some Gentlemen of the Bar & among others to Edward Bird Esq., of Reading.

He tells me this appointment would be acceptable to his Grandfather, the late Prothonotary of this County, Edward Shippen, Senr, Esqr.

It would be absurd for me to pretend to recommend a Gentleman so much better known to Council than to myself; but if the office is still vacant I should humbly apprehend that it need not any longer continue so, as I have authority to say Mr. Shippen is willing to remove to Reading & comply with every other Requisite, Mr. Reed I am told knows him intimately; He will no doubt be consulted.

Council I hope will excuse this application upon a subject I have long had at Heart, & believe me to be

with Respect their &

your most hble servt,

JONA. D. SERGEANT.

Directed,

V. Pres't Bryan.

Board of War to V. P Bryan, 1778.

War Office, Philadelphia, Angust 7, 1778.

Sir,

Two letters to you, one from Gen. Potter, the other from Col. Hartley, were this morning presented to the board, the conduct of Gen. de Haas has it seems, occasioned some difficulty, yet we believe his services were beneficial; Col. Hartley writes thus, "General de Haas came up here with an intention of assisting and supporting the people, he was useful in these particulars. He gave directions concerning the militia, and those that were arrived were well disposed of (in my opinion) according to my instructions I have taken the command. The General's zeal on this occasion has been of advantage; he will, I believe as soon as he is better of the gout, return to Lebanon: The Stores he furthered on from there were much wanted."

There were we perceive, some prejudices against Gen. de Haas, among those with whom he was to co-operate, of which we were ignorant. He seems too, to have mistaken our intention in supposing the letter of the board invested him with coercive military power. We took the General to be a Officer of ability & experience, & imagined that in a time of such distress his services might be of singular utility & gratefully accepted by the militia & people, for whom he voluntarily made a tender of them. His return will we trust remove every ground of complaint about command. The orders to Col. Hartley to take the command were given by Gen. Arnold, who as well as we had no expectation at the time, that a Gen. Officer would be in that quarter.

We do not order the detachm^{t} of Col. Hartleys reg^{t} to join him, because it is not improbable the whole may be recalled by the time they would unite, in case the northern expedition proceeds, Besides we do not know what is become of the Wioming company; but suspect it may have marched to that place. Our only wish is to provide in the best manner for the security of the frontier; and if your information points to a different disposition of the continental troops, we shall be glad to be made aequainted with it.

I am Sir, your

most obed^{t} Servant,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

The Honble George Bryan, Esq., Vice President, &c.

Council to Assembly, 1778.

In Council, August 7, 1778.

Gent.,

The Council have thought it proper to call you to meet in Assembly some weeks sooner than the day of your adjournment. Besides important business, requiring immediate attention which rose to their view, they have been solicited by a very considerable number of the freemen of the upper parts of Chester, to anticipate your intended sitting.

The usual time for holding the Court of oyer & terminer & Goal delivery for Philadelphia County, approaching, it was become necessary for the purpose of holding the said Courts at the usual place, to repeal "An Act for the better securing & punishing persons guilty of the crimes & offences therein mentioned," as that Law fixed the trials of capital offences committed in Bucks, Philadelphia & Chester Counties, at Lancaster.

It is very requisite, that the Admiralty Jurisdiction be established; and the duty & power of the Naval officer regulated. A standing law seems necesssary for the election of Justices of the peace, & some effectual mode of appointment should be provided in case the freeholders decline to choose, especially as there may not be 20 freeholders in some districts disposed to apply for one.—A law to validate the acknowledgement & probate of deeds, before members of the former Council of safety, the Justices named in Convention, & the members of our board, in the time when regular proceedings could not be had, or proper Magistrates very few, deserves your consideration.—The mischiefs arising from the importation of slaves are too well understood in Pennsylvania, to permit reasons to be given for an increase of the duty, or a prohibition. It is reasonable to expect that the present scarcity of Labourers will be soon relieved, in a far preferable manner, by a flow of new comers from Europe. At the same time, that Council recommend a general consideration of the fees of officers, except those already improved, made expedient by the depreciation of the paper currency, they hint the abasement of the revenue arising from public Houses, & the Excise, & suggest the importance of supplying the Treasury. A heavier fine on Tipplinghouses will be necessary to restrain offenders.

In the Course of the War, it has been found useful to lay a bridge across the Schuylkill at this City. Another bridge over that river was erected by General Washington at Providence, in this County. And a third, built by the Enemy, remains entire. It is worthy of consideration, how these truly convenient structures may be rendered lastingly useful. The terms on which they may be passed, ought to be settled.

The case of Aliens, who deceased under the late government, requires legislative interposition. Many persons, natives of foreign

Countries, had purchased lands & houses in Pennsylvania, & paid for them. Most of these Estates have received great improvement by the labour of the purchasers & their descendants, yet through the neglect of, or lawful bar which stood in way of naturalization, deep flaws remain in Titles derived from families thus circumstanced. They ought to be made valid. A law for this purpose, was formerly passed, but disallowed thro' the rigid policy of Britain.

The necessity of making a more liberal provision for the Attorney-General, than is at present allowed him, we have already mentioned to the honorable house. The dignity of Government requires that every publick officer should be decently supported; and at a time when the professors of law are supposed to be making great sums of money by espousing the Cause of the disaffected, it appears to be peculiarly hard, that the Gentlemen who Virtuously engage in behalf of their Country, and enter in publick office, should not receive adequate Compensation for their services. The great task which falls upon the Attorney-General at this critical and important period, when so great a number of capital trials are coming before our Courts, appears to Council to require that one or more able Gentlemen of the law should be retained for his assistance. This is the more necessary as there is every reason to suppose, that some of the persons who are charged with treasonable practices will endeavor to obtain, at any expence, the advice of the most experienced Council in this and the neighbouring states. The bringing of Traitors to justice is at all times an object of great importance, and more especially so in our present circumstances.

Besides these subjects of attention, which may call for formal Acts of Legislature, it is necessary to remind the honour^e^ House of Repres^s^ of the great necessity there is, that skillful auditors be appointed immediately to state the Accounts between Congress & this state.— The late fatal Catastrophe which has befallen the Connecticut settlers, on the River Susquehanna, deplorable as it is, recollects the disputed footing on w^ch^ these sufferers stood. Compassion for them, as well as justice to this State, require that they be reminded of the precarious nature of their tenure, before they re-establish themselves. It will perhaps be not amiss to instruct the delegates of this state in Congress, that as soon as the Confederation of the United States be compleated, they take immediate steps to bring the Claim of Connecticut to land within the Northerly bounds of Penn's patent to an early hearing & adjudication. It may also be remarked, that the delegates in Congress for Virginia, were furnished, about thirteen months since, with the remarks of the late Assembly, & their offer to refer the dispute concerning boundaries to Congress, & that no reply has been made.*

Indorsed,

To the honourable house of General Assembly.

* See page 69, 82.

Genl. Arnold per Aid M. Clarkson to T. Matlack, 1778.

Head Quarters, Philad^{a}, Aug^{t}, 8th, '78.

Sir,

The General has desired me to inform you that he has been requested by the Board of War to inquire of you what direction has been given by the Council respecting the demolishing the Works and taking up the Platforms.

I am Sir,

Your very hum^{ble} serv^{t},

M. CLARKSON, A. D. Camp.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq^{r}. Secretary to Council.

Samuel Wallis to T. Matlack, 1778.

Muncy Farm, Aug^{t} 8th, 1778.

My Good Friend,

I rec^{d} your letter by Mr. Pennington & rejoyced to find that the Counsel, as well as the Board of War, are so well disposed to protect the frontiers at a time of so much calamity. Col^{l} Hartly has arrived with the detachment of his Reg^{t} which you mention; the Col^{l} has Visited our Neighbourhood, & is of opinion that a stand some where near this place is absolutely necessary, & has laid out a small Fort accordingly. I find that from the attention payed to this County of late, particularly with the Continental Troops, that the spirit of the people seems to be returning to them; great numbers have returned, & I hope the majority of them will shortly get Back to their Homes. Col^{l} Broadhead's Reg^{t} did great service, & the spirited manner in which Col^{l} Hartly is now acting will I doubt not render assential service to the Country. I observe that the Counsel has been pleased to order a Considerable number of militia into this County, amongst which 300 is ordered out into Immediate service of the militia of this County. I am at a loss to know what kind of Intelligence the Counsel hear. Sure I am that if they had been well informed of the Distressed, Distracted & Confused situation which the people have not yet recovered from, they would have Judged it Impossible to call 300 Troops of our Militia Immediately into actual Service. Expereance will prove to you that what I say is right.

r 5 o'Clock, afternoon.—Since wrighting the foregoing part of this letter we have been alarm'd with Intelligence of a reaping party of about 14 being attack'd in the field early this morning, by a party of about twenty Indians—two kill'd & scalp'd—one (the son of Cap[n] Brady) mortally wound & scalped, & one taken prisoner—the other ten made their Escape. Lurking partys of Indians are constantly seen about us. Several attempts have been lately made to take off our Centenals in the night. I shall be much obliged to you for a line by the return of the Express with a news Paper Inclosed.

I am sincerely your friend, &c.,

SAML. WALLIS.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq[r], Philadelphia.
℔ Express.

Council to Dr. Wm. Shippen, 1778.

Philad[a], August 8[th], 1778.

Sir,

Beside the militia at Sunbury there are two other bodies in Continental service which will also require a supply of medicine. One body consisting of five hundred men at Standing stone, on Juniata, in Bedford County; the other consisting of four hundred & fifty men at or near Easton. You will therefore please to pay attention to these two bodies at the same time that those at Sunbury are supplied. The Council wish to know immediately what prospect there is of getting the medicine to Sunbury especially, that an answer may be given by the express to Coll. Hartley's application.

Directed,

To Doctor W[m] Shippen, director General or his deputy.

Colonel T. Hartley to Board of War, 1778.

From Capt. Walker's Letter & the Information of sundry other People, I find the Fact stands thus, relating to the affair of yesterday, near Loyal Sock.

A Corporal & four men of my Reg[t], with three Militia, were ordered above Loyal Sock about two miles, to Guard 14 Reapers & Craydlers, who were also armed, to cut the grain of an unhappy man, who had his wife and four children murdered by the Indians.

On Friday they cut the Greater part of the Grain, & intended to have compleated the whole next morning; four of the Reapers improperly moved off that night. The rest went to work in the morning; the Craydlers, four in number, by themselves, near the house; the Reapers some what Distant. The Reapers, except young Mr. Brady, placed their Guns round a tree. Mr. Brady thought this wrong, & put his gun some little distance from the rest. The morning was very foggy. About an Hour after Sunrise the Reapers & Sentry were surprised by a number of Indians under cover of the Fog. The Sentry retired towards the Reapers; the Reapers, all except young Mr. Brady, began to retire immediately. Mr. Brady made towards the Riffle; he was pursued by three Indians, & within a few rods of it was wounded by a shot; he ran for some distance & then fell. He rec^{d} another wound wth a spear, was Tomyhawked and scalped in an Instant. The sentry fired his Gun, but was soon after, shot down, as also a Militia man. Another Militia man is missing, supposed to be killed. The Craydlers, on hearing a Hollow, assended an emmenence, & saw part of this unhappy attack. The Indians, in a few seconds after, left the Field. The Corporal & three Men, who were with the Craydlers, propos'd to make a stand, but the others thought it Imprudent. Young Mr. Brady, who is an exceeding fine young Fellow, soon after rose and came to the House. A worthy man of the name of Mr. Jerome Veness, ventured to remain with him & cover'd his wounds; the other Craydlers, being acquainted with the Country, dispersed and fled towards Wallaces; the Corp^{l} & three men pushed right down the road. At Loyal Sack they were fired upon by a Party of Indians; they returned the fire. The Indians Fled & the Soldiers retook two horses from them, which they carryed to Wallaces. Cap^{t} Walker, upon receiv^{s} notice, immediately marched after the Enemy, but they had gained too much Time; they had retired to the mountains. Capt Walker crossed after Mr. Brady in a Bier; he is now here, but there is very little hope of his recovery. There were ab^{t} 30 Indians, and were supposed to be Mingoes. Tho' few men were lost in the above attack, yet we may observe & infer that too much caution cannot be used in a war with these savages. That Bravery & steadiness is of use. The Firmness & Friendship of Mr. Veness does him great Honor.

T. M.

August the 9th, 1778.

An Extract.

"I have just now information from Jacob Erb of some develish practices carrying on by the ingrossing Villians & others, to evade the Act of Assembly respecting the Stills. He says they are busy purchasing Grain of all kinds in this and the adjacent county, &

then push it across Susquehannah into Maryland, where Stills are set up to distill into liquor. They offer the most extravagant Prices, & if it is not some how put a stop to, they will do immense mischief."

Lt. Col. Z. Butler to Commanding Officer at Sunbury, 1778.

Sir,

I arrived at this place yesterday with about 20 Cont'l Troops, & about 40 Militia. We discovered two small parties of Ind^ns^ yesterday, & fired at them, & discovered two other partys this day; what number there is about is uncertain. If your Honor should think it consistent to have some part of the Troops, under your Com^d^, advance as far up the river as this place, or as far as you should think proper. I think it will be a means of keeping the Savages from murdering & robing the Inhabitants of these Frontiers, but must submit it to your own wisdom, & subscribe myself,

y'r mo. h'ble serv't,

Z. BUTLER, Lt. Col.

N. B. We are short of ammunition.

Directed,

To the Commanding Officer, Sunbury, in Northumberland.

Col. J. Hartley to Lt. Col. Butler, 1778.

Sunbury, August the 9th, 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 5^th^ Instant, came to this Place whilst I was up the West Branch, & was forwarded on by Express to me. I arrived here last night and dispatched the Express to Day.

I am pleased to hear that you have collected so many men, & that you have been able to make the progress you mentioned, I should be still happier to hear you were able to maintain your ground, and that I was capable of sending you a Reinforcement.

The Troops belonging to the Continental Service now with you, I had Instructions to order to join me, but as you seem to be in a fair way of being of Service to the Fronteers, where you now are, they are to remain with you till further orders. I understand

Troops are marching from East Town to support you. I hope this will enable you once more to look the Enemy in the face, and revenge those cruel Murders and Injuries your worthy Countrymen have suffered. I expect another Part of my Regiment to join me every Day, and some more Militia. I have established a Post and a Work is built, at one Jenkens's about six miles below the Niscopeck Falls. There is now a Garrison there which is to be strengthened to-morrow, when I am reinforced my Wish is to extend our post to Wioming—Should you not think yourself able to maintain yourself at Wioming, you are to March your Troops to Jenkens Fort, at the Place I have mentioned.

I am ordered up to assist the Fronteers, which I shall do in the best manner I am capable; it will give me great pleasure to have it it in my power to support and maintain yours.

The Enemy have, yesterday morning, appeared near Loyal Sock, on the West Branch, they Killed a Soldier of mine & one Militia man, one other is missing. Captain Brady's son was wounded and Scalped, but there are some Hopes of his Recovery; there were about 30 Indians, they were pursued but made off towards the Mountains.

You will from Time to Time inform me of any thing remarkable in your Department; you will receive a Box of Cartridges by Wm. Stewart. When you want more let me know.

I am with much esteem

Your most hum. Servt,

J. HARTLEY

Commdr.

Directed,

To Lieut Col Zebulon Butler, Command'g at Wioming.

Col. T. Hartley to Council. 1778.

Sunbury, August the 10th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

I mentioned in a former note the great Distress we were in here for want of Medicine Chests for the Militia. The small quantity brought for my own Regiment, we have chearfully divided. The Sick and wounded of the Inhabitants and Militia have increased; I must beg the Council will immediately send a Medicine Chest to Coxes Town, Paxton, from thence to be forwarded. There should be plenty of the principal articles. I might add that ye few stores I brought up are exhausted among those with whom, I naturally

had occasion to do Business. We are now destitute of most of the Conveniences of Life, but we shall with Pleasure submit to every Inconvenience, as we have a prospect of being useful to our Country. The Medicine Chest, could probably be forwarded by John Mitchell, Esqr., A. D. Q^{r} M^{r} Gen^{l}, in the City.

I am, Gentlemen,
With the greatest Respect,
Your most obed^{t}
& most humble serv^{t},
THO'S HARTLEY.

Directed.

To The Honourable Excutive Council of the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

Col. T. Hartley to Council? 1778.

Sunberry, 10 Augst, 1778.

Gentlemen,

In my last to you of the 2 Inst, I mentioned the steps I had then taken, & the situation of these Frontiers. Since then I have disposed of the militia who have arrived, at different posts, for the Protection of the People. Every man of my own Reg^{t} who could possibly go, I have also sent upon Command.

We have lent every aid to reap & get in the Harvest, much more will be saved than I could possibly have imagined.

Berks County has furnished its Quota of militia. Lancaster Con^{ty} has fallen far short. Northumberland County distracted & distressed; many of the Inhabitants fled & not returned, could afford but few men to act in the general scale of militia. The Wyoming Companies have not joined me, nor have I heard of the detachment of my Reg^{t} sent to Northampton. From these causes all our exertions here must fall short of the services wanted by an unhappy & intimidated Frontier.

My object, as I mentioned in my last, was to fix some principal Frontier posts, which we were to maintain, if possible; & grant as many smaller detachments for the Protection of particular settlements, as we could. All the People of the West Branch above Wallace's (who lives near Muncy) had fled & evacuated their settlements—so on the North-East Branch, all above Nescopeck Falls were gone. I was resolved to hold posts at both these extremes, and have an intermediate one on the head waters of Chelesquaque—there had been a small work began near one Jenkinses, about five miles from Nescopeck Falls, near Brier Creek, this I have garrisoned. I

have a Body in the Forks of Chelesquaque, but the left Flank on the West Branch, which was most exposed, & where the greatest present danger appeared, I visited, & as I before observed, found all the settlements, above Wallace's evacuated, those about Muncy & below, wavering & doubtfull. Indians daily appearing—no women or Children having ventured to return. The inhabitants strongly pressed that they should have Troops amongst them, & that some Fortress should be Built to cover that part of the Country, & afford an assylum to their Families in case of necessity. Genl. Dehas and several other gentlemen were with me, we considered & examined on all sides; we found none of the Houses properly situated to admit of a stockade Fort of any real use. We found those settlements in Danger, they were usefull from their Fertility of soil, & the Industry of the Inhabitants, besides being the Frontier—for if these people once gave way, there would not be long an Inhabitant above Sunbury or Northumberland—a valuable Country would be depopulated & some thousand persons ruined, added to this, if the settlements toward the Bald Eagle & great Island were to return, & to be covered & supported, there was a necessity for a secure post about mid-way. Upon the whole, we were clear of opinion that a Fort ought to be Built near Saml. Wallace's, about two miles from Muncy Creek, I therefore, directed one to be laid out accordingly, a rough plan of which I enclose you. The Bastions are to be built of Fascines & clay—if there is not leasure to compleat the whole of the same materials, the Curtains are to be finished with Stokade, these, with the Hutts, will answer the purpose intended—such of my men as are there with the militia & Inhabitants, are at work; the publick will have to pay but a small expence; thousands of pounds will be saved, as well as many Lives.

It may be said that these Forts are of but little Security to the Inhabitants, that Indians may pass them, so it is possible, but their depredations will not be so great. The Confidence of the People will be raised by the works, & from the beginning of the works to the present time a party has been intimidated by having an Enemy in the rear, especially if the latter was of a superior Force.

From the above reasons, & considering the Inclosed sketch of Paths, &ca., compared with the map of Pennsylvania, I hope my conduct will receive the approbation of the Honourable Council.

The savages have again appeared in some sort of Force. I send you inclosed a Copy Coll. Butler's letters to me, & my answer, also an account of an affair which happened yesterday morning about the time I left Wallace's.

The Indians have gained so much plunder & have met with so little opposition, that I imagine they are Induced to pay another visit to these Frontiers. The western & northern Expeditions will not affect several of the Barbarians who are committing these depredations. As no injury has been lately committed in Cumberland or Bedford, if two-thirds or three-fourths of the militia ordered to the

standing stone, were sent to this place, I could employ them very usefully. I am happy enough to agree well with the militia, I hope they will do as much good as can be expected from them.

It will be necessary that we should have at least two Iron four or six pounders, for the work I have mentioned, also ten or twelve swivels; I hope you will be pleased to send them on to Coxes Town as soon as possible, from whence we will endeavour to get them up by Water or some other means.

The militia of Northumberland are poor indeed, they complain, many of them, of having four or five months pay due to them, this would be a present relief to them if they had it, be pleased to send a sum for that purpose, money is also wanted for other uses. The attacks upon the Frontiers are really become serious.

We are subject to some inconveniences here, but shall, with the utmost alacrity, do all the good we can. The Harvest prevented me last week from sending a Detachment on the Indian paths, we hope to attempt it the close of the present week—as I have not ordered the Wyoming Companies to Join me, I presume the Detachment of my Regt in Northampton County, is ordered to march here—I shall dispose of it as well as I am able. The Bearer, Col. Antis will be able to give you further information.

I am, with great respect,

Yr. Honors most obed. &

mo. Hble servt,

THOs HARTLEY, Coll.,

Commandant.

P. S. Aug. 10th. By several fresh advices, we shall probably soon have some of the Barbarians to attack the settlements.

Resolution of Assembly, 1778.

In General Assembly.

Tuesday, Augt 11th, 1778.

The petition of the State Navy Officers for the loan of the Brig Convention, was read a second Time, and after some debate and consideration had thereon, it was

Resolved, That Col. Kirkbride & Col. Lowrey wait on the Honble the Executive Council, and inform them that this house is desirous of Conferring with them on the subject of the State Fleet and Defence of the River; and that the Council would appoint a Time for such Conference.

Extract from the minutes

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,

Clk. of Gen. Ass'y.

Philip Price to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Kingsess, August y^e^ 12th, 1778.

To his Excelency the President or Vice President of the Province of Pensylvania.

Gentlemen,

These are to inform you that I have in my possession on my meadows on tinicum Island in the township of Ridley, three two years old Colts, they Property of Christopher Wilson, a person who has gone off with the British army & has been Proscrib^d^ by the Executive Counsill of this State but has not surrendered himself, as I have heard of, and as I apprehend his Estate forfeited. I Give you notice of they afor^d^ Colt.

PHILIP PRICE.

P. S. The Colts has been on my Lands since the first of April Last. P. P.

Directed,

To His Excelency the President or Vice President of Pensylvania.

Appointment of Edward Burd, 1778.

Aug^t^ 12, 1778,

Pennsylvania ss.

The Honourable The Supream Executive Council of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We the Subscribers, Justices of the Supream Court and of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer, and General Goal Delivery in and for the Commonwealth aforesaid, do humbly certify, that we have nominated and appointed, and by these presents, in virtue of the power & authority vested in us by law, do nominate and appoint Edward Burd, Esquire,* Attorney at Law, to be Prothonotary or Clerk of the several Courts aforesaid, to hold and exercise the said offices, and to receive all legal fees & profits to the same appertaining, as long as he shall behave himself well therein; and we do further humbly request the said Council to commissionate him accordingly. Given under our hands and seals this twelfth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight.

THO. M'KEAN. [L. S.]
WILL^m^ ATLEE. [L. S.]
JOHN EVANS. [L. S.]

* Confirmed by Council Sept 1, see Col. Rec., Vol., XI. p. 566.

Council to State Navy Board,* 1778.

Philadelphia, 12th August, 1778.

Gent.

About six months since Council instructed you to suffer such of the barges called Guard Boats belonging to this State to be fitted out by private Adventurers at their cost & charges, to enterprize in the river Delaware against the Enemy, for a time specified, these adventurers giving security for the Boats, & taking all they could get. But the preference was to be given to the officers & men of our fleet on the same terms that others offer to take them, which were to find victuals, ammunition & Marines.

Something it seems has been done in pursuance of the above Instructions, for a prize is just arrived taken by one or more of these Barges. This circumstance leads to an inquiry into the time of Cruise which had been specified in this case, for we had no idea of permitting the use of them till this time; Especially as the Enemy being gone out of Delaware, the first ground on which the scheme was founded, was entirely gone—However there is no design to controvert the right of the Captors to their prizes in this Instance, It is to ask whether the officers & men of our Navy have stepped forth on this occasion on the footing stated; Viz., to find men & victuals & fit them out. This includes in it a renunciation of all pay, rations & other advantages accruing to them as officers & privates of our fleet for the time, as otherwise, they are not on the same footing that others offered to take the Barges.

Council would be glad to learn how far their offer to the people in the pay of this State has been complied with, as they have reason to suspect, that some unreasonable men who acted under it have claimed to receive Wages & rations, as if they had beeen in service during the time. Your attention to & observations on this subject are desired.

Directed,

To the Navy Board of Pennsylvania.

* The Assembly by resolution of 15th, resolved that the State Navy Board, being no longer necessary, be dismissed by Council, and passed a vote of thanks for their services, and on the 17th they were dismissed by Council. See Col. Rec., Vol., XI. p. 534–5.

At a Court Martial held at Philadelphia, the 13th of August, 1778.

Capt Nathan Boys, President.

Capts Montgomery,	Capts Martin,
Garland,	Greenway.
Roach,	Erwin,
McFatrick,	Lieuts Berry,
Potts,	Simmonds,
Harrison,	Fitz Simmons,
Watkin,	Myers.

PRISONER BEFORE THE COURT.

Samuel Ford, 2d Lieut of the Effingham Galley, Charged by Capt Hugh Montgomery, of sd Galley, for deserting to the Enemy during the Siege of Fort Mifflin.

The Prisoner acknowledges he deserted from the sd Galley. That Wm Kilpatrick, (the 1st Lieut of sd Galley) told him to go into the Boat. That he did not know where he was going. That he asked where they was going. That they told him to see their Wifes. That they said they could not leave him behind, for fear he should discover the Plot. That a Scotch Guard lay at the place where they landed, and took them. That they was sent to Philadelphia before Lord Cornwallis. That he had his liberty to go about the City, sold Liquor, and used to go down the River as far as Tenicum Island, to buy Provisions for his family while the Enemy were in Philadelphia. That before the Enemy left the City, an English Officer call'd upon him to know if he would go with them. That he answered No. That the sd Officer then took him up and put him in the Provo. That he then Apply'd to sd Officer by Letter, and inform'd him that he would go with them. That he went with the Enemy to Monmouth Court House, and on the day of Action there, left them, Bought a Horse, and came to Head Quarters at Brunswick. That he there received orders to go to General Arnold, at Philadelphia, which he did, and there got a Certificate from sd General to go to Lewis Nicola, Town Major, and deliver himself up, which he did, and had a Certificate from sd Nicola, who told him to go to the Commodore, or his Captain, and deliver himself up.

EVIDENCE.

Capt William Watkin, (of the Guard Boat Brimstone) declareth on Oath, That there was two Galleys and two Arm'd Boats ordered upon Guard to look out behind Hog Island. That Capt Montgomery asked him to come on board, which he did. That they eat Supper

and he went to Bed with Capt Montgomery betwixt 9 and 10 o'Clock. That the Prisoner had the 1st Watch upon Deck. That when the Watch was call'd at 12 o'Clock, sd Watkin came upon Deck, and at the same time Mr. Kilpatrick, the 1st Lieut, came upon Deck. That the Prisoner and sd Kilpatrick were together on Deck. That the Prisoner and sd Kilpatrick went into the Cabbin. That sd Watkin went into the Cabbin and saw one of them have a handkerchief in their hand with something in it, which they put under the Ladder going into the Cabbin, as sd Watkin went down. That sd Kilpatrick said, Capt Watkin had better turn into his birth. That sd Watkin answered and said that Mr. Ford had been upon Deck four hours, and that he had better take a Nap. That Kilpatrick said Mr. Ford did not want to turn in, and Mr. Ford said he was not sleepy. That sd Watkin then turn'd in and went to sleep. That in the morning at day light, one of the People came and call'd Capt Montgomery, and acquainted him there was no Officers nor Men upon Deck, that they were all gone. That Capt Montgomery put his hand behind him to feel for sd Watkin, and said, "Watkin, are you gone too?" (having miss'd him). That sd Watkin said, "Not yet, Mess Mate."

The Court refer'd their Opinion to the next day.

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At a Court Martial held at Philadelphia the 14th of August, 1778.

Capt Nathan Boys, President.

Capts Montgomery,	Capt Erwin.
Garland,	Lieuts Berry,
Roach,	Fell,
McFatrick,	Simmonds,
Potts,	Cassen,
Harrison,	Fitz Simmons,
Martin,	Bremen.
Greenway,	

PRISONER.

Samuel Ford, 2d Lieut of the Effingham Galley, being brought on Trial the day before, Was brought before the Court and asked several Questions, also if he had any Evidences to bring, or any thing more to say in his defence.

Prisoner answer'd, not any.

OPINION.

The Court Seriously considered the Charge alledged against the Prisoner, having heard his defence, and the Evidence. The Court are of Opinion that the Prisoner, Samuel Ford, is Guilty of Death, and Therefore the Court do

Sentence the s[d] Prisoner, Samuel Ford, to suffer Death by being Shott.*

NATHAN BOYS, President.
JOHN THORNTON, Cl'k.

B. M. G. ISAAC MELCHER TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Gent.,

I fear you have Misunderstood Mr. Ozcas; all I at present wanted was an order from y[e] Council on James Young, Esq., W. M. G., to assist me with Carts or Waggons to secure the Wood I have already purchased; besides which am about to Contract with a Gent. for a large supply—as well for the use of this State as for the United States. I beg your attention to the premises, and am,

Gent.,
your most obedient serv't,
I. MELCHER,
B. M. G.

Philadelphia, 13 Aug't, 1778.

Mr. Young will supply me on your given an order.

B. M. G. ISAAC MELCHER TO COUNCIL, 1778.

Gent.,

The officers and privates belong'g to the State Navy have made application to me for Wood, Straw & Candles as usual. I am apprehensive it will not be in my power to afford them that relieff I cou'd wish (with the most essential article Wood) without the imediate assistance of the Waggon Master General of this State, to whom I have already apply'd, & rec'ed the inclosed answer, to

* See Col. Rec., Vol., XI. pp. 564, 566.

which the H'ble Council will be pleased to be refer'd. I solicit your aid & interposition in granting me an order for as many Waggons or Carts as I may from time to time find neeessary to supply the State Troops, as well as for y^e^ Continental service, If I should have occasion for any more for the service of the States in general, besides supplying the State Troops it has been customary for our department to supply Council & the Assembly the necessity of laying in a proper Stock for the Winter, in a measure in which I flatter myself I shall have the hearty concurrence of the Council.

I am with much Respect,
your most obed't Serv't,
I. MELCHER, B. M. G.

Philada., 13th Aug^t^, 1778.

Lt. John Carothers to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, Aug^t^ 13, 1778.

Sir,

With much Difficulty arms have been procured for the Militia ordered from this county to standing stone, some of the men are gone and some are now ready to march, but for want of camp kettles, haversackes & canteens, which articles are not to be had here, the men are very uneasy, and numbers on that account refuses to march untill they are supplied at least with kettles. Col. Broadhead's reg't marched this morning to Pittsburgh, well supplied, which has enraged the militia to see themselves neglected. I am perhaps in as uneasy a situation as can be imagined, in this respect, as the militia look to me for every thing, & I know not how to have them supplied. The Quarter Master here says he has none of those articles, nor knows nothing where, nor how they may be had—if it be my Duty to furnish the Militia with those necessaries, I would be glad to be informed by Council, where to apply for them—in order to quiet the minds of the men who are this moment on the parade, I was obliged to send express to Lebanon for a few kettles, but with little hopes of success.

I am Sir, with much respect,
your very H. Servant,
JNO. CAROTHERS,
Lieut. of Cumb'd County.

Directed,

To George Bryan, Esq^re^, Vice President.

Information of Mr. William Straker, 1778.

Relative to his five negroes taken with him by the Admiral Count D'Estaing.

Three of the above negroes, two males & one female, were his domestics in Philadelphia, previous to his going to Barbadoes, and are well known by those who were conversant with his family; the other two are, one a male of about twenty three years old, the other a washerwoman, & like the former mere domestics.

Aug. 13, 1778.

Report respecting Wm. Straker, 1778.

At a Board of War, August 13, 1778.

Present. { Mr. Peters, Mr. Pickering.

The board having taken into consideration the memorial of the hon'ble the Sieur. Gerard, relative to Mr. William Straker's case, & made inquiry into the same, beg leave to refer Congress to the inclosed state of facts signed by Mr. Straker; and to add that they have seen the article of co-partnership referred to by him between Mr. Straker & his brother-in-law Mr. James Budden—that they find by Mr. Budden's information & letters, that Mr. Straker sailed for Barbadoes before the commencement of hostilities in April, 1775, and merely on the business of their co-partnership—That Mr. Straker during his absence did not draw his money on effects from hence, but on the contrary, transmitted a number of bills to his partner; and that the company have a large sum in the loan office of the United States.—That Capt. William Budden declares that he during the enemy's possession of Philadelphia, wrote to Mr. Straker, informing him that if he came to Philadelphia, he could easily pass from thence into the country—this also is certified jointly by him & his sister Mrs. Wilson. That since Mr. Straker's return to Pennsylvania, he has taken the oath of allegiance & fidelity to the State.

From this view of his case, the Board submit to Congress the following opinion:

That Mr. William Straker, lately taken on board the ship Lord Howe, by the fleet of his most Christian Majesty, is, and ought be considered as a subject of the State of Pennsylvania; and that the hon'ble the Sieur. Gerard, Minister of his most Christian Majesty, be

desired to release the said Mr. Straker, and cause his property to be restored to him.

By order of y^e^ Board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Resolution of Congress respecting Wm. Straker, 1778.

In Congress, Aug. 14, 1778.

The board of war to whom the memorial of the hon'ble the Sieur. Gerard,* relative to Mr. William Straker was referred, having made report thereon, and the same being read,

Ordered, That the said report and papers referred to relative to Mr. Straker, be referred to the government of the state of Pennsylvania, to determine whether they will consider Mr. William Straker, lately made a prisoner by the Count d'Estaing's squadron, as a citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, and if the said government shall determine to consider and receive as a citizen of their state the said William Straker; that they be desired to transmit a certificate of their determination to the Sieur. Gerard, Minister plenipotentiary of his most Christian Majesty.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, August 14, 1778.

Whereas, it is of great consequence to the general weal, that the enemy at New York should not be supplied with provisions, which may relieve the distress at present, prevailing in their army and fleet, and for the more effectual execution of the embargo.

Resolved, That the vice-president & supreme executive council of the state of Pennsylvania, be requested to station one of their gallies, under command of a vigilant officer, near the mouth of the cape May channel, with orders to search all vessels that may be outward bound, either through Cape May channel, or the Delaware, and if any such shall be found exporting provisions contrary to the em-

* See pages 671, 678; also Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 554.

bargo,* that they be brought before government to answer for such, their misconduct.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Report of Committee of Congress, &c., Respecting Property in Philadelphia, 1778.

The Committee of Congress in conjunction with the Committee appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to ascertain the property of the goods, wares, and merchandize, in possession of the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, at the time it was evacuated by the enemy, viz: so far as to determine whether any, or what part thereof, may belong to the King of Great Britain, or to any of his subjects. Beg leave to report, That they find Captain Stephen Backhouse, of Liverpoole, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, came to the city of Philadelphia in December last, with a cargo of Liverpoole salt, a part of which he deposited in a store, belonging to Joseph Prichard, on the lower side of Chestnut street wharf.

That on the twenty-third day of the same month the said Stephen Backhouse, in behalf of himself, and one Nicholas Asheton, of Liverpoole aforesaid, did consign the said salt to Messrs. Amos Foulke, an inhabitant of this city, and one William Backhouse, who came to this city from New York, last fall or winter, either with the enemy or some little time after. The form of the consignment is as follows, viz:

Messrs. Backhouse and Foulke.

Gentlemen,

The salt in Mr. Prichards and Mr. Barges stores, belonging to me and Mr. Asheton, of Liverpoole, is 4285 bushels, which I consign to you for sales, and shall be glad you will dispose of it as soon as you can, but do not wish to have it sold for less than one dollar ℔ bushel, but hope it will sell for more; and as you sell the salt you will please to remit, in good bills, to Nicholas Asheton, Esqr., of Liverpoole.

I am Gentlemen,

your humble servant,

STEPHEN BACKHOUSE.

That the Keys of the store were, at the time of the consignment, delivered by the said Stephen Backhouse to the said Amos Foulke

* See proclamation of Council for an Embargo on the 1st of August. Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 545, and their protest against an Embargo, laid by Congress, June 8, (See page 585,) last. Also Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 546.

and W^m^ Backhouse. That soon after the said Stephen Backhouse went to New York, that the said Amos Foulke paid rent for the store during several months. That the said Amos Foulke, one of the consignees of said salt, and Alexander Wilcocks, an inhabitant of this city, do both of them alledge and declare, that after several conversations had by, and between the said Alexander Wilcocks, and the said Amos Foulke, about the purchase of said salt, the said Alexander Wilcocks for himself, and John Wilcocks and William M^c^Murtrie, on the seventeenth day of June last, being the day before the enemy evacuated the city, did purchase 3,500 bushels of Liverpoole salt, then laying in the said Prichards store, at 7*s.* 6*d.*, Pennsylvania currency, ℔ bushel, which quantity of salt was supposed to be all the salt then remaining in the said Prichards store, of the said salt, imported from Liverpoole as aforesaid, and deposited there.

That a bill of Parcells for the same salt was, on the same day, made and given by the said Amos Foulke to the said Alexander Wilcocks, &c. And the said Amos Foulke further alledges that he made an entry of the sale on the same day in his books. And the said Amos Foulke and Alexander Wilcocks, both alledge that the Key of the said store was delivered to the said Alexander Wilcocks on the same day, by the said Amos Foulke, and they both agree that no part of the purchase money hath yet been paid.

But whether under the afore recited circumstances, the said salt ought now to be considered as the property of British subjects, the said Committee beg leave to submit to Congress.

Your Committee also beg leave further to sit upon the business committed to them.

Indorsed,

1778, August 14th, Copy report of the Committee of Congress, and the Committee of the Supreme Executive Council, respecting property & papers, respecting Messrs. Wilcocks' salt.*

Extract of a Letter from General Arnold, 1778.

Extract of a letter from General Arnold, Philadelphia, Aug. 15, 1778.

"I have the honour of transmitting to you the proceedings and sentence of a general Court Martial, held in this city the 29 July, on Frederick Verner, charged with acting as a spy and guide to the British army: also several papers relative to the matter. As the evidences do not appear to me sufficiently full and clear to touch the life of a citizen, I have suspended the sentence until the pleasure of Congress is known."

* See pp. 724, 740

In Congress, Aug. 15, 1778.

Ordered that the foregoing paragraph with the proceedings of the court martial, and papers relative to the matter be referred to the supreme executive Council of Pennsylvania, and that they be requested to report their opinion thereon to Congress.*

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Council to Col. Hartley, 1778.

In Council,
Philad^{a}, August 15, 1778.

Sir,

Your letters of the 9th & 10th instant were immediately on rece^{t} of them laid before the Board of War. You will receive from them an account of the Orders issued by that board for the detachment of your regiment now at Easton to Wyoming, there to receive your orders. Coll. Kowatz's party of horse is ordered to join Genl. Pulaski's legion at Camp.

The idea w^{ch} Congress entertain of fortifications in the interior part of the country will not admit of any expence in erecting them. As to the places where temporary forts may advantageously be erected, your own discretion will determine as occasions offer. We are sorry to inform you that we, at present, see no probability of our being able to procure the Cannon which you mention in any reasonable time. The fitting out of privateers has taken all the small cannon that can be had by any means. To get them made would be a work of too much time, and Congress have none here.

The medicine we understand is forwarded, but the stores we fear have not been sent you.

The distress for want of money cannot be relieved at present. We have pressed Congress on this subject some time past, and have now earnestly solicited assistance from the board of war, but without success. It shall be sent forward as soon as it can be obtained.

To Coll. Hartley.

* See C. J. McKean's opinion, Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 561.

Col. Jacob Morgan to Council, 1778.

Reading, August 16th, 1778.

Sir,

I Received Yours of the 27th of June last Concerning the Representation to Congress that the Guard of 200 men ordered to be Kept up at Reading, were not faithfully posted according to order, and that very Considerable part of them went Home from time to time and left the posts very insecure.

I have therefore made Diligent enquiry into the affair, and cannot find that any post was negleted, but Guards were Immediately furnished when Call'd upon.

Also agreeable to orders of Council of July the 14th, we Call'd out four Classes, and out of them we sent to Sunbury One Hundred and Eighty Including officers, and to Eastown One Hundred and Twenty Three Including officers, which makes in the whole Three Hundred and Three. I would have sent an Equal number to each Place, but for Dispatch and ease to the men we appointed the place of Rendezvous near the mountains, being on their way to Sunburry; and them sent to Eastown at Reading, which made it impracticable to send an Equal number to each place.

As for the order for Powder and Lead it came too late to hand to be sent for to Supply the militia with, but we Supplied them with what we had, which was very Inconsiderable.

I am Sir, with great Respect,

Your Honour's most

Obedient Humble Servant,

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Philadelphia.

Henry Fisher to State Navy Board, 1778.

Gentlemen,

On Saturday last, came in and Anchor'd in our Road, a Sixty Four gun ship; she lay there about three hours, and then hove up and went out, and anchor'd abreast of the light House. On sunday, about Four O'Clock, Came in a Small Black Sloop, which she Brought too; and last Night, she and the Sloop went to sea, and have not been seen since.

This Day, about noon, Came in Seven Ships, which I take to be

Store ships; at Most, there is not above one armd Vessel with them, and she not more than a Sloop of War. They are all Standing up the Bay, with the wind At South. They Appear as if they were much at a loss to Know what to doe. They are going up under a Very Small Sail, and to all Appearance will not get further up than the Brown: for I Believe they have lost their Pilotts. Having no more to add, I Remain your Most Humble Servant at Command,

HENRY FISHER.

Lewis, Augt 17, 1776.

To the Honorable the State Navy Board, Philadelphia.

Two O'Clock when the Mg. Express sett off.

H. FISHER.

Mr Evans, Please to send of this letter to Lewis with all the Speed you Can; and all others that Keep the Stage horses are Requested to doe Same.

H. FISHER.

To be Delivered to Colo. Bradford to be forwd to Philad.; if the French Frigate is at New Castle to Send her Notice.

To Colo. Bradford, New Castle.

E. BATTELL.

—

New Castle, Augt 18th.

The Express came to my Hands about 9 O'Clock, P. M., & forwarded from hence at 10 O'Clock. The Copy was immediately recd by an Officer of the French Frigate, & taken on Board to the Captain.

G. BEDFORD.

—

Wilmington, Augt 19th, 1776.

Came to my hands at this place, about half past one O'Clock, this morning, & forwarded by Express.

FRAN: WADE, D. Q. M. G.

Directed.

To The Honorable, the State Navy Board, Philadelphia.*

Per Express.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 307, 308.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO V. PRES. BRYAN, 1778.

Philadelphia, 17th August, 1778.

Sir,

I have the honour of inclosing under this Cover. an Act of Congress of the 14th Inst.,* requesting the supreme executive power of this State to adopt measures for insuring a strict observance of the present Embargo on provisions.

I am, with great Respect & Esteem,
Honorable Sir,
Your most obedt. hum. Servt.,
HENRY LAURENS.
President of Congress.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President Pennsylvania.

GEN. BENEDICT ARNOLD TO T. MATLACK, 1778.

Philad^{a}, Aug^{t} 18th, 1778.

Sir,

Inclosed is a Letter from his Excellency, General Washington, of the 9th Inst., desiring the Continental Troops in this City might be sent to Join the Main Army, and that application might be made for the City Militia to replace them. I beg you will lay this letter before the President & Council with the Inclosed return of the Garrison, which is so small that at Present there is barely One Relief. If the Continental Troops are sent to the Army, There will be wanted at least three hundred Militia to supply their places. I beg to know as early as possible if they can be furnished, that I may Advise his Excellency, & give the Necessary Orders for the March of the Troops.

I am, very respectfully, Sir,
Your Obed. Hbl. Serv^{t},
B. A RN

Tim^{y} Matlack, Esq^{r}.

* See page 702.

V. P. Bryan to Col. Thomas Evans, 1778.

Philad^{a}, 18th August, 1778.

Sir,

We have in hold here a young man who is well known to have joined Gen. Howe, at Trenton, the winter before last, to have proceeded to New York and wintered there. The Summer following he passed with the British Army thence to the head of Elk, and through the country to this city. His doings in this place are past into equal shade with the practices of many evil doers, residing here; It is necessary to look abroad for testimony. Benjamin Coates, near the Valley-forge, and Mr. Graham, at the Bell in Charles-town, are represented as capable of giving evidence against this man. His name is Thomas Clarke, he is a Carpenter, by profession a Quaker, was born at Wilmington, but has worked in this City for some time past. I am desired to ask your interposition in getting the affidavits of the persons mentioned above as witnesses, and transmitting them to Council.

No return of the estate of traytors forfeiting, is yet received from your part of the country. It is very much to be wished, the particulars of real and personal estates were lodged with the Secretary.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. BRYAN.

Directed,

To Col. William Evans, Vincent, Chester County.

Council to the Assembly, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Council think it is proper to acquaint you, that on the first Instant, they layed an Embargo* for thirty days. Congress impressed with the importance of keeping supplies of Victuals from getting to the Enemy, had applied to this State to enforce an Embargo on provisions, which they had layed, in this, and all the States in union. This communication of their resolve, led to an enquiry into the power of Congress to restrain the Commerce of the Commonwealth in this manner. Nothing in the plan of Confederation now under consideration, nor any other warrant for such an exercise of authority, appearing, Council entered a protest on their

* See Rec., Vol. XI., p. 543

minutes,* against the act of Congress, for this purpose w^ch was dat
the eighth day of June, last, lest it be drawn into a precedent, a
proceeded to interpose a lawful restraint in the premises, for t
Time above mentioned, The prolongation of it belongs to yo
honourable House; yet it may be observed that such an act, would
prudent at this juncture.

It is obvious, that the methods to be taken to enforce Embargo
are not ascertained. Some regulations on this subject by Act
Assembly, seem needful.

Philad^a, 18th Aug^t, 1778.

Directed,

On public Service, Henry Laurens.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of t
Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvan
Philadelphia.

Council to Pres. Laurens, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 20th, 1778.

Sir,

This Council and a Committee of the hnble House of Gene
Assembly, have had a conference on the subject of fortifying t
river Delaware, and are desirous of confering with a Committee
Congress on this important business, before any determination
had thereupon.† Should Congress judge it proper to appoint a Co
mittee for the said purpose, Council will thank you for the earli
intelligence thereof, as the season is far advanced and no time oug
to be lost.

I am,
Sir,
with the greatest respect
Your most obedient hmble Servt.

Directed,

Hnble Henry Laurens, Esq^r., President of Congress.

* This protest does not appear on the minutes, a blank space is left for
which is not filled up. See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 546.

† See page 694, also Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 558, 562.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sunbury, 20th August, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to the Resolve of Congress of the 8th June, and the instructions of Council of the 10th of s[a] month to me, concernning Raiseing one Company in this County to continue in service for six months, I imediately appointed the officers for said Company, and they have now doing duty about sixty men, and I expect the Company will soon be full. The Expence of Raising this Company amounts to a good large sum, as each man that provided himself with a Good Rifle and Accoutrements, was to have Eighty Dollars, agreeable to the Instructions I Received, and this is the footing this company is raised upon. The Militia that has served their Tower of Duty in this County complains Very much in not geting their pay, which would be of great service to a number of poor People, especially those that lived above Loyalsock creek, who has lost their all, and is thereby in distress. When they moved down their familys to these Towns I ordered the Commissary to issue them Provisions, and Coll. Hartly, who commanded here at present, allows of it.

Your instructions of the the 14th of last month I rec'd, and gave the proper warning to the first, second and third Classes of this County to imbody themselves imediately, but at that time the one third of the Inhabitants had not returned to the County, and what did was Employed in cuting down their Harvests, so that it was not prudent to call them off from that Necessary Business; but now there is some of the Militia of this County turning out, and its not many can be expected, as they are obliged to keep in partys for their owen preservation, as there is but very few above this Town has Ventured to bring Back their familys. We have at this time about one Hundred men of Coll. Hartley's Regiment, and two hundred and twenty of Lancaster County Militia, and about one hundred and seventy of Berks County Militia, with one hundred of our own County Militia, and between sixty & seventy of Capt. James Murray's Company of six months men, in all about six hundred and fifty. Col. Hartly has stationed them to the best advantage for the good of the Country, but all cannot keep the savages from doing mischief, and it will be the case until there is regular expeditions Carry'd on against their Towns, which I hope may be soon. In case you think proper to send any money up to this County at this time, Major James Crawford will be a proper hand to carry it.

I am, Sir, With due Respect,

Your most obed't,

Humble Servant,

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To Honorable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia. Fav'd by Rob't Frute, Esq.

Council to Joseph Reed, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 21, 1778

Sir,

The hn'ble house of General Assembly of this state, by a reso of the 17th instant recommended to Council, "to retain and emp "in the publick service such able Council as they may think ne "sary to assist the Attorney General in the prosecution of publ "offenders, and that they make a proper compensation for th "service."

The Council having considered this resolve, are unanimously opinion, with the Attorney Gen^l, that you can render the state m essential service in the important trials now coming on, than any ot person within their knowledge; and therefore they now apply to for your assistance, which they have no doubt but that your pri ples & inclinations will conspire to induce you to give. They p pose to allow you two thousand pounds for the coming year for t service. You will easily see that authority here have in view important trials of traitors, which will employ the Supreme Co during the next winter. It is necessary that you communicate Council your determination on this proposal, as soon as may be c venient to you, from many considerations.

Council is very desirous of having a list of the officers of the tro of this state in the Continental army, with their respective ranks, soon as possible after the new arrangement is made, and also strength of the respective regiments.*

Col. Thos. Proctor to Pres't. Laurens, 1778.

Philadelphia, August 22d, 1778

May it please your Excellency,

Having been repeatedly applied to by numbers of the Nine mon substitutes from Maryland, and at this time by those from Caroli to enter them into the Battallion of Artillery under my Comma to Serve to the end of war,—

Do respectfully address you upon the occasion, that If the m might be found Consistant with the oppinion of the Honoura Congress, I might be Impower'd, with My officers, to enlist s substitutes as were desirous to enter, and of these men Exact retu should be made, what state they have been Enlisted from, tha necessary their Quotas might be Credited by them, I therefore h

* See Col. Records, Vol. XI., p. 560.

Expediency of this measure will be Countenanced by your hon-
able house, which will Enable me speedly to fill my Battalion to
Number required, at which time shall count it a pleasure to be
ered with them to Join the Grand Army.

I have the Honour to be
Your Excellency's most obd^{t} serv^{t},
THOMAS PROCTOR,
Col. Pennsylv^{a} Art'y.

rected,
His Excellency Henry Laurens.

Council to Pres't of Congress, 1778.

In Council,
Philad^{a}, 22^{d} August, 1778.

,
The resolve of Congress of the 15th instant, relating to Frederick
rner, having been read in Council, they, not being lawyers, re-
red the papers relating to his case, to the Honble Thomas M^{c}Kean,
q., chief Justice, who has returned his answer in the following
rds, viz. See his answer.*

Here follows the opinion of Counsel thereupon:

And the Council concur with the Chief Justice in the opinion
ned by him.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your most obedient Servant,
GEORGE BRYAN,
Vice President.

lorsed,
To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq., President of Congress.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 561.

Col. Geo. Morgan to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Philada., August 24th, 1778.

Sir,

I inclose a Message which I received last Week from the Delawar Nation, who have collected themselves into one settlement on th Waters of the Muskingham; & who, I have studiously & success fully endeavoured to secure in the Interest of the United States They are now threatened by our Enemies on acc[t] of that Attachmen which they have uniformly given convincing Proofs of. Thei Council have conceiv'd an Idea that I have, in all my Transaction with them, studied the good of their Nation. Their Eyes are there fore now upon me. Two Commissions from Virginia are at For Pitt. It has been recommended by Congress to the Executiv Council of Pennsylvania, to appoint one to attend there, on behal of this State. The appointment, tho' it has been delay'd, is stil necessary. If Council may think I merit, & am equal to this Trust I take the Liberty, as I shall set out for Pittsburgh next Week, t offer my best Services on the occasion.

I am,

with great Respect, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

GEO. MORGAN.

Directed,

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of y Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Message from the Delawares to Col. Geo. Morgan

Dated Coochockunch, July 19th, 1778.

Brother Taimenend,

According to your desire, I spoke once more to the Wiandot but am sorry to inform you that they will not listen to me any mor this they have told me very plainly.

Brother,

At a Treaty at Detroit, the Nations have agreed to fall upon th Delawares, & the Wiandots are to make the beginning. I believ this to be true, & therefore desire your Assistance.

Brother,

I have always assured you of my Friendship to the United State & I now tell you my Heart is still the same. I am weak, & sha

ave need of your Assistance, which, if you do not grant to me, I hall be ruined & destroyed, but if you will now assist me agreeable o your Promise, our Friendship shall not be broken.

Brother,

I am threatened for my attachment to you, & for giving you In-elligence of what passes among the Nations. We fear the Road is Way laid for our Messengers, we must, therefore, act with Caution.

Brother,

We are in great danger, therefore we now rely entirely in your Help & Assistance, and I desire your Answer as speedy as possible.

WHITE EYES.

Intelligence.

A Party of 80 Wiandots is gone to Wheeling Fort, as we judge, several other Companies are gone to the Settlements. We hear Girty & Lamotte are gone down the River St. Lawrence with all the Men they could spare from Detroit. The Gov^r told the Indians that he Passage was stopped, (as it formerly was by Gen^l Arnold) therefore he must open it again. The Trade at Detroit is also topped, & no goods allowed to be brought over to Sandusky any more. We long to hear from you again.

Directed,

To Coll. Geo. Morgan.

Council, to Gen. Armstrong, &c., 1778.

To Gen. J. Armstrong, Ach. M^cClean & John Hubley, one to each.

Philadelphia, August 24, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have issued a commission appointing you together with Barnard Dougherty, James Martin, Archibald McClean, and John Hubley, Esquires, to hold a Court for the trial of divers persons confined in the Goal of the County of Bedford on a charge of treasonable practices against the State, &c. They have been induced to issue this commission, in consideration of the many important trials which will probably come before the Supreme Court in the Interior Counties, and of the danger there may be of the said traitors being rescued as well as other difficulties under which the people of the County of Bedford now labour, which render a speedy trial of the said offenders highly necessary.

From your disinterested patriotism and love of justice, rather than from any reward which can be with propriety offered to you, the

* Referred to Vol. VI. p. 341.

Council are induced to hope and expect that you will cheerfully render this necessary service to your country.

The expences of the Gentlemen named in this commission, while they are within the County of Bedford will be paid by that County, and the other expences in going and coming incurred out of the county will be a State charge according to law—and Council have ordered that a dayly pay of forty shillings be allowed, and paid to each of them while they shall be engaged in this Service including the time of their journey, over and beside the expences to be paid as is already mentioned.

Directed,

To Gen. Armstrong at Carlisle, and Archibald McClean, Esq'r, of York.

Wm. Sanders to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Spruce Street, Mond'y morning, 8 °Clock.

Honble Sir,

The Bear[r] Jenny Louden is in great Distress, having had a fall from her horse Coming from the Camp at Valley Forge, to Follow the Col[s]. Sheppard & Sprout, which she attended from New York to the White plains, thence to Saratoga & then to the Grand Army; now wants to return to N. York to see after her Property, she has Spoke to Mr. Lewis one of the Members for York in Congress, who informed her it lay intirely with the Supream Council, she therefore begs your aid & pass for that purpose.

I have the Honor to be

Honble Sir, your

most respectfull Serv[t],

W[m] SANDERS.

Directed,

To The Honble Geo. Bryan, Esq., President of Council.

Col. Walter Stewart to Lieut. Stoy, 1778.

Camp at White Plains, Augs^{t} 25, 1778.

Sir,

You will proceed without delay to any part of the State of Pennsylvania where you may promise yourself the best success in recruiting on which service you are now going.

On your arrival at Philad^{a} you will wait on the Council for a supply of money for this Service, I flatter myself every exertion in your power will be made use of to procure men, as your own character as well as the good of the Regiment to which you belong is concern'd. Relying on your activity and diligence,

I am with respect,

y^{r} most obed^{t} Servant,

WALTER STEWART, Colonel
2nd Penn^{a} Reg't,

Directed,

To Lieut. Stoy of 2nd Penn^{a} Reg't for Philad^{a} County.

Gen. John Armstong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 25th August, 1778.

Dear Sir,

By this conveyance the bearer waiting, I can do little more than acknowledge your favour of the 15th, I'm sorry to find that the necessary efforts into the Indian country are not like to be carried on, or at least hang in suspence. I have rec'd a late letter from General Lewis who is now at Fort Pitt, delegated by that State in respect to an Indian Treaty which had been expected at that place. The Gen. seems of opinion that all the Indian Tribes are combined ags^{t} us, I can scarcely think it general with the Delawares & Shawnees, yet is it true that late depredations are committed near Tortle Creek some twelve or fifteen miles from F. Pitt, but as Gen. Hand is lately come down, no doubt he will furnish the Board of War with his sentiments on that department, I expect another letter from G^{l}. Lewis before he leave that place, and will probable write you. I presume the Entrenchm^{ts} of the Enemy at New Port, are out of reach of our Ships Canon, except the casuel shels from the Bumbs, and begin to doubt that seige will be more tedious (if not abortive) than many at first expected. Our friends are often premature in their sentiments. I ought to write Col. Bayard, but immagin that silence

is at this time a favour. A disagreeable accident (but I should not give it that name) has lately fallen out here, a young man of the militia of York County being shot dead on the spot, by one of Capt. Corans soldiers—This appears to have been in consequence of a very imprudent Quarrel betwixt these soldiers on artillery as they are called, & the Militia of York County on their way out, the Inquest has pronounced it willful murder, the perpetrator is in gaol.

In my last I suggested the expedience of appointing Gen. Potter to take the command of the Militia on the waters of the Susquehanah & retain that opinion & that it might, if at all be early done with some short reason or apology for the delay. I shall write him fully but can not readily get a conveyance.

I am dear Sir, with
great respect,
Yours, &c.,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,
On Public Service.
The Honourable George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of the State Philad^{a}.
Favour'd by
Capt. Wilkey.

Mr. Irwin and R. Bridges to Council, 1778.

Philad'a, 25th Augt., 1778.

To the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council.

Gentlemen,

We take the Liberty of acquainting your Honours, that we are fitting out a Privateer to Cruise against the Enemies of the United States, that we only want ten Swivels, ten Howitzers, & two hundred pounds Powder to make her ready for Sea, which articles we had purchased, but are Disappointed by the person from whom we Bought them, therefore take the Liberty of requesting your Honbl. Board will either sell or lend us those Articles, by which you'll much oblige

Y^{r} Honor's
m^{t} Obed^{t} Serv^{ts},
MATH'W IRWIN,
ROBT. BRIDGES.

Robert Levers to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Easton, August 25th, 1778.

Sir,

After my Return from Philadelphia I had the Honor to receive here your very particular Favor of the 12th July last, which you intimated to me; when I waited on your Honor, had just been forwarded to Easton. Altho' I did not conceive there was any thing therein that required a direct answer, nevertheless, I woud not have failed in acknowledging the Receit thereof till this time, if I coud have felt myself at Liberty to have wrote at all, without touching upon the Situation of this County, and upon the nature of the unhappy choice made by the Board of War, in the appointment of a Commander over the Troops designed for the Protection of the Inhabitants thereof. In this my Province was not any thing beyond that of a Spectator, and it was too delicate a Point for me to touch on, altho' I have suffered greatly in my Fears least, thro the appointment, some unfortunate miscarriages might have ensued. Nor should any thing have prevailed on me at this time, if Cap^{t}. Kearney, Cap^{t} Commandant of the detachment from Col. Hartley's Regiment had not, in confidence represented to me, that he not only conceives his Reputation at Stake, in consequence of the strange conduct of his Superior Officer, but that he apprehends really from strict observation, that Col. Kowat's is totally inadequate to the important Task of conducting Military Operations in an Indian Country, or in a Country into which the Savages may make Inroads and Devastations, he being as perfectly unacquainted with the Country liable to be exposed to Indian Ravages, as he is to the nature of the Indian manner of Fighting. Col. Kowat's, in the Legion to which he belongs, and for the Service it is immediately raised, may doubtless distinguish himself; and as far as I can learn, it is the Desire of the Officers who command the Detachment from Col. Hartley's Regiment, that Col. Kowat's may be translated to his Legion, and another Chief Officer appointed. Upon this Representation of Cap^{t}. Kearney to me, as an individual of the County, from a consideration of the Services I owe the Public, and a Regard to the distressed Inhabitants in the Upper Part of the Minesinks, who, I have too much Reason to fear, will soon feel a heavy Blow from the Enemy, I have thought it my Duty to delay no Time, but give your Honor the above necessary Information.

That part of General Polaski's Legion, which remain with Col. Kowat's, at his Head Quarters at Fort Penn, I humbly am of opinion cannot possibly render any Services to the Public in that very broken Country, but by way of Expresses, & this is needlessly distressing that unhappy Country to a very great degree. Two or three Continental Horses stationd properly would serve every purpose; besides, every Farmer is always in a Condition to render that Ser-

vice to the Public, he never being without good Horses. And when it shall be considered, that, thro many accidental Causes, there are but very few Families in the Townships in that Quarter of the County, who will have Bread sufficient to supply themselves until next Harvest, the Prospect of their Calamity is dreadful.

The Country of Wyoming, when settled, formed a good Barrier for a considerable Part of the interior Settlements of Northampton County, and for some Part of Northumberland. If a proper Post coud be established there, and another high up on Delaware, the Scouting Parties from these Posts must of necessity, one woud think, frequently fall in with the Enemy, whose Head Quarters may rationally be supposed to be about Aquago. Col. Zebulon Butler, in the Continental Service, I hear is now at Wyoming with Two Companies, and some of the Remains of the Susquehannah Settlers, amounting perhaps in the whole to One Hundred and Fifty men, certainly much too weak a Body. They have however this for their future Consolation, after their past Distress, that Wyoming is not now an object for the Enemy. They can expect nothing there but hard Blows, unless they shou'd come again there formidably, and repossess that Country, as having been an antient Place of Rendevous, and to be again considered in that Light, for the more easy penetrating into and among our Settlements.

If I may presume to deliver my Sentiments with Freedom and without offence, there seems a necessity for supporting the Post at Wyoming, for the Preservation of the interior Country; for, if Wyoming should become a Rendevous for the Enemy, the Country within will be everlastingly in danger, and the least alarm throw all in Confusion. But as the late great Settlement at Wyoming is now destroyed by the Devastations & Depredations of the Tories and Indians, an important Question will arise, wherein the Interest and Peace of the several States may be involved. How far Encouragement, or even Permission for the Settlement of that Country again, should be allowed by any States collectively or disjunctively, under Colour of making Settlements, or regaining Possession of Lands upon any particular Claim or Right, during the present Controversy with Regard to Titles? And of this I apprehend Congress alone can be the Judge or Director.

I have received an Order of Council to forward the Indigo to Philadelphia, which I shall obey the first opportunity, as soon as I can procure Waggons. Mr. James Wharton, when I waited on him, acquainted me that the Bar Iron also belonged to the State. Your Honor will please to give me directions concerning it.

I am, Sir, Your Honor's most obedient
humble Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

To the Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Robert Levers to T. Matlack, 1778.

Easton, August 25th, 1778.

Sir,

Your Favor of the 19th instant I received yesterday, with the Order of Council respecting the Indigo, which I will forward to Philadelphia by the first safe opportunity. I have spoke to a Waggoner this day, who with his Neighbour have promised me, so soon as he had got in his Second Crop, he will call on me to bring it down.

Enclosed I send you Five Marriage Licences, signed by the late President, and beg you will please to order about Sixty Tavern Licences for the Current Year, and Three or Four Marriage Licences to be sent up to me. When the Waggoners bring down the Indigo, if you think proper, it will be a good Conveyance for the Licences.

We have nothing particular of moment here. The last Accounts from the Upper Parts of this County mention, that last Thursday, as some Persons, about Four, who had formerly lived at a New England Settlement, on Walanpapack, a Branch of Leheighwachsein, had returned in order to try to save some of their Effects, a young Lad, who was going to a Spring for Water, as he had mounted a Fence, & was just getting over, received a Shot & fell down; his Companions, on perceiving Three or Four Indians running down a Hill to the Place where the unfortunate Boy was shot, immediately ran off and luckily made their Escape.

Cap^{t} Kearney, of Col. Hartley's Regiment, was lately upon a command as high as Cushietung, with about 150 men, he fell in with Ten, some say Seventeen Indians & Tories, who happened a few minutes too soon to discover our Parties, or they must have fallen into our Hands. They immediataly took to the River and unfortunately escaped, excepting one or Two who were shot in the River, an Indian Squa & a Tory killed. I am not without my apprehensions, that the Upper Part of the Minesinks will soon receive a severe Stroke, unless we shall be so fortunate as to repel the Enemy.

I am with perfect
Esteem and Regard, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Timothy Matlack, Esquire.

Robert Rice to Council, 1778.

Philadelphia, 26th August, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Having Recv[d] orders from Colonel Humpton for Recruiting in this City, as will appear by the Letter produced, beg I may be supplied with Money and Instructions.

I am Gentl'm, with respect,

Y[r] most Ob[t] S[t].

ROBERT RICE,
Ensign 10th Penn'a Regmt.

Directed,

The Hon'ble the Supream Executive Council.

John Proctor to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Westmoreland, Augst y[e] 27th, 1778.

Honoured Sir,

I am in Greait need of Money to Pay of the Milita of this county, Plase to Give the Bairor, Mr. Watson, a draft in my favor for four thousand Pounds for that youse—that sum will Pay the most Needful. The Bairor is Quarter Master to the Light Horse of this County, he can inforim you of ouor Destrest'd Situation. I will see you this fall, God willin, and am,

Sir, youre Sincere
& Humble Servt,

JOHN PROCTOR.

To the Honourable George Bryan, Esqr.

Justices of Berks County to Council, 1778.

To His Excellency the President, or, in his absence, the Hon[e] the Vice President and Supreme executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Remonstrance of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland in Court of General Quarter Sessions met at Sunbury for the County aforesaid, on Thursday, 27th August, 1778, Sheweth:

That a certain George Moy, supposed to be a Lieut. Col. of the

Berks County Militia, did, on the day above mentioned, most grossly insult the Civil Authority of this County by coming with a party of armed men, which he paraded before the door of the house in which the Court was then sitting for the examination of some prisoners then before said Court, and then and there by threats, manaces, and the most horrid oaths and imprecations (too prophane and Vulgar to be repeated,) did endeavour to Biass or pervert the Judgment of said Court.

That by his, the said Moy's, Rude, Blasphemious and prophane behaviour he so intimidated the Constable and Goal keeper who attended the Court, as well as the men who were then under examination; that upon one of the said men being committed to goal and the other two dismissed, (nothing appearing against them) they were all afraid to leave the house Untill Mr. Atkinson, one of the Justices, undertook to see the prisoner safe to goal, and on his going out was followed, or rather surrounded by a party of said Moy's gang with threats and fixed Bayonets, insulting said Justice all the way to the goal, and on his return with many obprobious Epithets and Vulgar expressions in the German Language.

That the said Moy being legally served with a writ at the suit of Thomas Hughs, for false imprisonment, The said Moy with the assistance of his party rescued himself from the Sherriff; and also being served with a Warrant upon the deposition of said Hughs, a Copy of which deposition is hereuto annexed, the said Moy refused to appear or give any security for his behaviour.

Signed by order of the Court,

THOMOND BALL, D. Prot^y.

Northumberland County ss.

This day personally appeared before me the Subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Thomas Hughes, one of the people called Quakers, who solemnly declares and affirms that he, the said Hughes, is in dread and fear of suffering in his person or property from the Violence or malice of Col. George Moy; which Moy did (last night) swear that he would run the dep^t through if he (deponent) said another word, and also that the said Moy swore he would sacrifice the settlement, meaning the settlement where deponent lives. Affirmed and Subscribed the Twenty-seventh day of August, 1778.

THOMAS HUGHES.

Before me.

THOMOND BALL.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President and the Hon^e the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania.

Orders of Council to Commodore Hazelwood, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 27th, 1778.

Sir,

You are requested to give orders that an armed boat be immediately fitted, and with a discreet officer and sufficient number of hands, to proceed directly to Chester. Please to send the name of the officer to Council immediately. The officer will receive his Orders in one hour.*

Directed,

To Commodore John Hazelwood.

J. & A. Wilcocks to President of Congress, 1778.

Philada. Aug. y^e^ 28th, 1778.

Sir,

We take the Liberty to request that you will ask the attention of Congress to our Memorial which lies upon your Table, & is founded upon the Proceedings of a joint Committee of Members of Congress and the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.† We flatter ourselves that Congress will speedily take the Matter into Consideration, as our Interest is extremely prejudiced by our having so long declined to dispose of any Part of the Salt; and this we were induced to, from a Disposition to show the utmost Deference for the Resolves of Congress. You will infinitely oblige us by expediting this Business, Who have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect,

Your Most Obed't

Hum'le Serv'ts,

JOHN WILCOCKS,
ALEX. WILCOCKS.

Directed,

To his Excellency Henry Lawrens, Esq^r^, President of Congress.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 557. † See page 703, 740.

Correspondence, &c., respecting a Lot of Salt, 1777.

Amos Foulke on behalf of himself and William Backhouse, doth certifie all whom it may concern, That Captain Stephen Backhouse, of Liverpoole, came to this City in December last with a Cargo of Salt, a part of which he Deposited in a store belonging to Joseph Prichart, on the lower side of Chestnut street wharff. That on the 23d day of the same month, the said Stephen Backhouse did Consign the said Salt to us for sale by a Certain writing, Copy of which follows:

Philada., 23d December, 1777.

Messrs. Backhouse & Foulke,

Gentlemen,

The salt in Mr. Prichart's and Mr. Barges' Stores, belonging to me and Mr. Ashton of Liverpoole, is 4285 Bushels, which I Consign you for sale, and shall be glad you will dispose of it as soon as you can, but do not wish to have it sold for less than one Dollar ℔ Bushell, but hope it will sell for more, and as you sell the salt you will Please to remit in good Bills to Nicholas Aspton, Esq., of Liverpoole.

I am Gentlemen, your Hum'ble Serv't,
(Sign'd) STEPHEN BACKHOUSE.

That the said Stephen Backhouse delivered us the Keys of the said Store at the same time, and inform'd us that he had hired Mr. Prichart's store at 25s. ℔ month, for which we have made him several payments after the said Stephen Backhouse left this City. After several meetings to settle the Price, on the 17th day of June last, we sold 3500 Bushells of the said salt to Alexander Wilcocks & others, which Quantity was supposed to be all the salt in the said Joseph Prichart's Store, a Bill of which was then delivered them, as also the Key of the said Store House, and the sale entered in our waste or day Book on the same day, in the following words:

Philada., June 17th, 1778.

Sold of Stephen Backhouse's Sales of Salt, to Allexander Wilcocks, for himself and John Wilcocks, and William M°Murtrie, 3500 Bushells of Liverpoole Salt, now laying in Joseph Prichart's Store on Chestnut street wharff, at 7s. 6d. ℔ Bushell.

And I do averr that the said Contract was made in good Faith, without any Collusion whatever.

AMOS FOULKE.

Philada., 11th August, 1778.

Col. Irvine to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Camp, White Plain, Aug't 29th, 1778.

Sir,

Captain Bratton, Lieut^t Russel & Milligan, of my Regiment, are sent on the Recruiting Service; I have ordered them to wait on the Council, for Instructions & orders for money. I wish them to beat up at Lancaster, York & Carlisle, & have directed them so to do.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^t Servant,

WM. IRVINE,
Col. 7^th P. Regiment.

Captn. Wm. Bratton, to Lancaster Co.,
Lieut. Alex^r Russel, to Cumberland do
Lieut. James Milligan, to York and Cumb^d do*

Directed,

The Honble George Bryan, Esq^r, Vice President of the Council, Pennsylvania.

Pres. of Congress to Council, 1778.

Philadelphia, 31^st August, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Agreeably to the request of the Council, signified in your Honours Letter of the 28^th Inst., but this moment brought to me, I herewith transmit twenty-four Marine Commissions with Instructions & Blank Bonds, the Bonds when duly executed to be returned to Congress. Three Bonds are deficient on the late grant of twelve Commissions.

I have the honor to be
With very great Regard &
Respect,
Honble Sir,
Your obedient & most
humble servant
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

The Honble George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President, Pennsylvania.

* These names appear as a memorandum, in the writing of the Secretary.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 31, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Service of the Militia of this State being Continued by law only during two months, the time of those now in the field will shortly expire; it is therefore necessary to inquire of your honorable board whether it is your judgment that a further number ought to be called out, to take the place of those now in Service. The Council request your attention to this subject, and that you will please to inform the Council of your determination thereon.

I am, with great respect,
Your very humble servant,
G. B., (V. P.)

Directed,
The Hon'ble Board of War.

Council to Pres. of Congress.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 31, 1778.

Sir,

The Council requests, that you will be pleased to put into my hands twenty-four blank Commissions, for Private Ships of War; those which you have heretofore put under the direction of Council having been already issued.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient and
very humble servant,
G. B., (V. P.)

Directed,
The Honorable Henry Laurens, Esq^r, President of Congress.

Council to Governor Livingston, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, August 31, 1778.

Sir,

The Council of Pennsylvania have observed with great pain, that there is a constant intercourse kept up between the disaffected in this city and the enemy in the city of New York. It is not possible by any means that can be devised and executed here to put a stop to to this mischievous and dangerous practice. It is therefore thought proper to propose to your Excellency that some vigorous and effectual measures be adopted to prevent the emissaries of our enemies from passing thro' the State of New Jersey on this business. It is said that a considerable number have gone thro' your State under the pretence of having passes from the Council of this State. In two cases which appeared to render them really necessary, the Council have been induced to grant passes; these are the only two which have been granted; and your Excellency may depend that no others will be issued but in cases wherein they cannot with justice be denied. We beg leave to suggest the propriety and necessity of stopping & searching every person who may be justly suspected of a design of going into New York. Your Excellency needs no intimation concerning the manner of forming and executing a measure of this kind, and we hope that the hinting the necessity of placing proper persons at different stages to examine passengers, will be considered by your Excellency as arising solely from anxiety to put an end to this intercourse of our enemies with one another. Nothing shall be wanting on the part of this Council to give efficacy to any plan calculated for this good purpose.

I am, with great respect,

your Excellency's most obedient

and very humble servant.

Directed,

Exc'y W. Livingston, Esquire, Governor of New Jersey.

Gen'l James Potter to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Sunberry, Sept^r 1st,* 1778.

D^r Sir,

In my last letter to you I informed you that I intended, when the Militia came to this pleace, to go and station them on the frunteers, at such posts as I thought nessecery, and make Report thereof to Councal, thus I know I had a Right to do by my Commition and Locqual situation. Last Thursday I came to this pleace Intend to serve the Cuntrey, I found General De Haas Hear, who said he Commanded all the Troops, the nixt day Col^l Harkley came and let me see his orders to Command the Troops.

He Politely Requested that I would take the Command, that I chused to declin, as I never was over fond of command, and this is a disagreebal one; I Rether chuse to Act as a privet Gentleman and do all the good in my power, But People will make Obeservations.

I am, Sir, with due

Respect, your most

Humble servant,

JA^s POTTER.

* This letter being received in Council on the 7th of August, it is to be supposed that the date was intended August 1st.

T. M.

Directed,

On public service.

George Bryan, Esq^r, Presedent of the Steat of Pennsylvania, In Philadelphia.

Thomas Hartley to Council, 1778.

Sunbury, Sep^r 1^st, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Since my last to the Council I have been out with several Detachments up the West Branch—tho' we are not certain we killed a single Indian; it would have been in our Power several Times since I came up here had we had some Horse. The Barbarians have frequently appeared in open ground & do fairly out run the most of white men. From my little observation I am clearly con-

vinced of the utility of Horse, for however sagacious the Indians are, they cannot always chuse their own ground. The Horsemen should be armed with a sword, two Pistols & a short Rifle; the latter would be necessary to intimidate the Enemy, & the Soldier might occasionally act on Foot. I have wrote to the Board of War to send an officer & 12 Horse here; I hope they will comply.

Captain Walker has been so industrious at Muncy as to have compleated all the Earth and Fasine Works, & nearly all the Stockade. I never saw as much work done by so few men in so short a time.

We have a four Pounder mounted there; if we had four Swivels to place in the Bastions the Place would be very secure with a small Garrison. It is to be remarked that since this Work has been begun, no Person has been killed within our Line of Posts.

I most earnestly wish that you would send up twelve Swivels for the County; in Case the withdrawing of the Militia they will be essentially necessary.

I am inducing the People to put in some Fall Crops. Several are returning to their Habitations, but with great Diffidence.

Yesterday morning three German militia, without arms and without Permission, went out of the Fort at Muncy to dig some Potatoes within sight of the Garrison; they were immediately attacked by one white man and some Indians. The Enemy discharged all their Pieces at once—one militia man fell and was scalped, one ran of; The other one was seised, and had a Tussel with a stout Indian, but was rescued by the Troops. One Cottner was killed, & one Capt. Martel was wounded on the 23^{d} of August near Muncy.

Several Indians and Tories have appeared about Wioming. One Family has been killed 15 miles on this side of it, & two near the Garrison. My Detachment from Northampton County is arrived there by this Time, but I am told their Cloaths are all torn by the woods; they are in the utmost want of Hunting Shirts and woolen overhalls or Leggins. I hope 200 of each will be sent up immediately. No medicine has yet arrived—the militia are very sickly.

The Bearer Captain Brady can inform you of any other matters from this County.

I have the Honour to subscribe myself
with the utmost Respect,
your most obed^{t}
humble serv^{t},

THOS. HARTLEY,
Coll. Commandant.

P. S. As we are just on the Recovery now here, I dare say the State will endeavour to replace some of the militia whose Times are out, otherwise hundreds of Famalies will be to be maintained as

Paupers. The western or northern Expeditions will grant no present relief.

Yours as above,

T. HARTLEY.

Directed,

The Honourable Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Wm. Evans to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1778.

Vinent, Chester County, September 1st, 1778.

Sir,

On the 28th of Aug^{t} I Rec^{d} your favour Dated the 18. In obedience thereto I immediately Proceeded to Valley Forge, and saw Mr. Benjamin Coates and ex^{d} him Concerning knowledge of Thomas Clarks Being with the Enemys of this Contrey at his house, who saith that befor they Came he, the said Coates with his famaly, fled and never saw Clark at all, but was informed by Mis Graham that he made his house his quarters in Company with one Stackhouse, a tall slender man, who said that he Came from Bucks County, and appeard in the Habit of a quaker. As said Coats knew nothing from his own knowledg, thought it needless to send him to you. I also Examined Mrs. Graham, a gentlewoman of Varacty, who saith that she knew Clark well, and saw him Come with the English army. As I thought her a very material witness I got her to Concent to com to you on the 4th Day of this instant, to be Examined befor Council, to whom I think she will give general satisfaction Concerning this matter. At so the Tory Estates, Col. Bell and my self are now taking a return of them, and in a few Days Expect to send an Exact List to Council.

I am your H. Ser^{t},

WM. EVANS.

Directed,

To the Honorable George Bryan, Esq^{r}, Vice Precedent.

Col. F. Johnston to Capt. McHenry, 1778.

Sept^r 1^st, 1778, White Plaines.

To Cap^t M^cHenery,

You are to proceed with all possable Despatch to Penn^a, taking with you a list of all Deserters from the Reg^t. As soon as you can arive there you will wait upon the Executive Council and settle youre Accounts. You will likewise Draw from the Council or Lieu^t of the County the Balance of bounty Due to Each man raised by you, and send on the same to Camp immedently that the men may have no Cause for Complant; and should you have it in your power to Rase Recruits also Till Called to Camp.

F. JOHNSTON, Col.,
Commanding 2^d Penn^a Brig^e.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, Sept. 2, 1778.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the legislative or executive powers of the State of Pennsylvania and the States Southward thereof, to permit such vessels to load with flour, wheat, rice, corn, peas, or beans, for the Eastern States, as shall come recommended by the executive powers of such States, or any of them, to carry provisions for the consumption of the people of those States.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolution of Congress, 1778.

(Copy Verbatim.)

In Congress, September the 3d, 1778.

Resolved,

That the Artillery Regiment raised in Pennsylvania, Commanded by Colonel Thomas Proctor, be considered as part of the Quota of Troops to be furnished by that State, which is to be credited for the men now in the Regiment, and also for any which shall be hereafter recruited therein. And that the Government of the said State be requested to furnish Colonel Proctor with the State bounty, to enable him to fill up the Regiment to its compliment of men.

That the Committee of Arrangement be directed to consider the State of the Officers of the said Regiment, and regulate the same in the manner and according to the rules Adopted by them, with respect to other Artillery Regiments.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Resolution of General Assembly, 1778.

In General Assembly,

Friday, September 4th, 1778.

Mr. Secretary of the Council attended the House with a verbal Message from them,† That the Time for which the Council had laid an Embargo on the Exportation of Provisions from this State had expired, that by the Constitution they had no right to extend it, to desire the House would take such measures as they should think expedient thereon. The House took the same into immediate consideration, and it was thereupon

Resolved,

That the Vice President and Council be authorized, impowered and required to take the most effectual measures for preventing the Exportation of Provisions from this State, until a Law shall be enacted or other Regulations made by this Assembly.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.
Clk. of Gen^{l} Ass^{y}.

Joseph Reed to ——— ———, 1778.

Sir,

Agreeable to my Promise of forwarding to you any important Intelligence, I beg Leave to enclose you a Journal of the late Expedition against Rhode Island, which has terminated with little real Advantage to the Publick. It was kept by Major Gibbs, who being with Gen^{l} Green, had an Opp^{y} of being well informed of what pass^{d}. I have nothing to add, but that our Loss by a Return is, in the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 568.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 568.

whole, killed, wounded & missing, 211. No Officer of higher Rank than a Captain killed. A Gentleman of the name of Lovel, said to be a son of the Member of Congress, after behaving very gallantly, & being wounded, was murdered by a British Officer. I suppose this Express will take with him to Congress, the exact Return of the Loss of our Army. There is nothing new here.

I have the Honor to be,

With much Respect & Regard,

Sir, your obed. Hble Servt.

JOS. REED.

Head Quarters,
White Plains, Sept. 4, 1778.

Part of a Diary of Major Gibbs, 1778.

Providence, Aug. 5, 1778.

5th. This Day the Enemy set Fire to 4 of their Frigates, & a Number of other Vessels laying off the N. End of Providence Island, being attacked by 2 French Ships.

6th. All the Troops march'd to Tiverton, appointed as a Rendezvous, Count d'Estaing laying off the Harbour of New Port.

7th. The Troops were collecting.

8th. Count d'Estaing, with his Squadron up the middle Passage leading into the Harbour of New Port, which occasioned a heavy Cannonade between the Enemy's Batteries & his Squadron, which came to under Conanicut Island; the Enemy burnt 18 Dwelling Houses next to their Lines, & in the Ev'g retired to their Works about Newport.

9th. Having Intelligence by Deserters that the Enemy had retired within their Lines the Army was put in motion—the right Wing embark'd & took Possession of their Works on the N. End of Rhode Island, the remainder of the Army followed immediately. About 2 o'Clock, P. M., a Fleet of about 25 sail of English Vessels were discovered standing in for New Port; they came to for the Night off Point Judith, the Wind being S. S. W., the Count could not get out.

10th. About 8 o'Clock, A. M., the Count stood out of the Harbour, the Wind being N. N. E. The British Fleet immediately put to sea, as the Squadron pass'd Newport a heavy Cannonade commenced between the Batteries & the Squadron.

11th. The Army was to have moved down towards Newport, but a Storm prevented.

12th. The Storm increased.

13th. The Storm raged violently—Marquees & Tents were torn down, some Soldiers & many Horses perished—most of the ammunition damaged, & all the Men wet—28 Deserters from the Enemy.

14th. This Day was employed in drying the Cloaths, issuing Ammunition, & repairing the damage done by the Storm.

15th. The Army was put in motion at 6 o'Clock, & took Post about 2 miles from Newport. 7 Deserters.

16th. The Army threw up Works for their own Defence, & this Night began to throw up Works agst the Enemy's Right. 6 Deserters.

17th. Batteries not complete, the Enemy cannonaded our Men at Work. 8 Deserters.

18th. Our Batteries not complete, the cannonade continued; 3 Men wounded. 10 Deserters.

19th. This Morning opened a Battery of four 18 Pounders & silenced their advanced Redoubt; one Man killed & two wounded. 10 Deserters.

20th. Another 4 Gun Battery opened; at 2 o'clock the Squadron appeared off. At 5 o'Clock Gen^{l} Sullivan received Advice from the Count that he had fallen in with L^{d} Howe's Fleet, consisting of 12 Ships of the Line, 10 Frigates, 4 Bomb Ketches, & 4 Row Gallies, with 6 Fire Ships & some Transports, having upwards of 3000 Troops on board; that he took the Senegal of 16 Guns & a Bomb Ketch; that his Squadron was shattered, & must sail immediately for Boston to be repaired, The Languedoc having lost her Mast, Bowsprit & Rudder, the Tonant dismasted & the Cæsar missing. Gen^{l} Green & the Marquis went on board.

21st. The Squadron put to sea; the Works go on but slowly; the Marquis returned.

22d. Cannonade continued, & our cover'd Way compleated.

23d. Opened 2 Batteries 300 yards in front of our former one, consisting of Eleven 18 & 24 Pounders, and two 10 inch Mortars; one 18 Pounder burst, & one 10 inch Mortar split. The cannonade continued warm, one man killed & two wounded; heard of the arrival of the Cæsar at Boston. The Enemy have several small Cruizers on each side of the Island.

24th. Cannonade continued.

25th. Began to fortify the North End of the Island to secure a Retreat, & began to remove some heavy Cannon & Baggage.

26th. Two Frigates arrived at Newport. 5 Deserters.

27th. Two Ships & a Brig arrived this Day; last Night 2 Subs & 24 men, chiefly from Varnums Brigade, were taken off by the Enemy, owing to the carelessness of the Militia Picquet which they

were going to relieve. It was determined to retire to the North End of the Island, but for certain reasons it was deferr'd.

28th. Cannonade continued, all our heavy Baggage & Stores being removed, the Army was put in motion at 8 o'Clock, P. M., and arrived at the North End of the Island at 3 o'Clock next morning.

29th. About 7 o'Clock, the advanced Corps, under Col. H. B. Livingston, on the East Road, & Lt. Col. Lawrence on the West Road, were attacked by the Enemy's Columns, & were obliged to retire, by their superior numbers, to Quaker Hill, when they made a gallant Resistance. Col. Livingston being reinforced by Lieut Col. Sprout, with Col. Shepards Regt, gave the Enemy a Check; the Enemy was soon reinforced to the right & left, upon which our Troops retired near to the Front of the Army, which was formed in Line of Battle; the Enemy took possession of two Eminences in advance of our Right, & Quaker Hill on the left, where they placed several Pieces of Artillery & began a cannonade upon our advanced Post on the Right; they had also two Frigates, an armed Brig & two Schooners in the middle Passage, which annoyed our right Flank, while their Infantry advanced to draw in the light Corps & gain a little Redoubt which supported our right; our Troops being reinforced the Enemy gave way, but rallied & kept reinforcing as we did, till near 1500 were engaged on our right. The Action continued severe from 2 till 3 o'Clock, when they broke a second time and retreated in confusion, leaving many killed & wounded, but the Skirmishing between the advanced Parties & a cannonade continued till Evening; our Loss is uncertain, computed at about 60 killed & missing, & about 160 wounded, among whom are several officers. The Enemy's Loss, by what we have been able to learn was considerable, particularly in Officers. We took two Officers & about 20 men. The Officer & Soldiers, in general, behaved during the action to a Charm. The Artillery has great merit.

30th. A constant cannonade this Day & a Skirmishing with the advanced Troops, but with little Damage; it being determined to leave the Island, our Stores were moved at 6 o'Clock, P. M., & at 8 o'Clock the troops were put in motion & embark'd at Howland's Ferry for this place, where the Rear arrived about 3 o'Clock, without the Loss of Men or Stores, or alarming the Enemy, who lay within one mile of the Army.

Capt. Thos. Houston to Robert Knox, 1778.

Dr Sir,

This moment came ashore with Capt. Josiah, and made Oath to a Justice of the Peace concerning the Prize Brig, has, we have understood the Capts of the Schooner, has taken the Capt. and mate to the Justice and made them sware what was not true, beg of you

to acquaint the Vice President concerning the Afaire. Capt Josiah & self has apointed Mr. McColloh to act as Ajint for us Boath, and shall be very happy if you will be very particular abought the condemning of her.

I am, Sir,

Your Humb. Servt.

THOS. HOUSTON.

Great Egg Harbour, Sepr 4, '78.

Directed,

To Robert Knox, Esqr., Philadelphia.

Capt. Geo. Garland to Council. 1778.

To the Hon'ble the President & Council for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Having Rec'd a Commission for one of the State Gallys, by the hands of Commodore Heazelwood, and by him desired to make choice of the Gally; my choice is the Hancock, but cannot take charge of her until I git an Order from the Council to Capt. Thomas Moore, to deliver her with all her Stores, as Capt. Moore has a Commission for the Hancock, and not yet discharged.

From your Honours most Obedent

Humble Servant to Command,

GEORGE GARLAND.

Sept 5th, 1778.

Pres't of Congress to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Philadelphia, 5th September, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Inclosed your Honor will be pleased to receive an Act of Congress of the 2d inst.,* for relaxing the General Embargo, in order to supply the Eastern States with Vegetable Provisions for the necessary consumption of the Inhabitants of those States.

I am, with very great Respect,

Honored Sir,

Your obedient & most

humble servt,

HENRY LAURENS,

President of Congress.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President Pennsylania.

* See page 732.

Col. Clement Biddle to Col. Chas. Pettit, 1778.

Camp, White Plains, Sept. 6th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

The consumption of Forage is so great, & from the distance it is brought, subject to so many delays & disappointments, that I wish to fall on every method that will be most likely to answer a Certain & regular supply. At this time we draw considerable quantities of Corn & Oats from Virginia and Maryland, by the way of the Head of Elk to Trenton, & thence by land to this Camp. The same from the Delaware state; And these supplies must be continued as long as the season will permit, the middle states being much drained. However, I think much more might be drawn from Penns^{a}, Jersey, York & Connecticut, if the Legislatures of those states would take effectual measures to bring out their Hay and Grain for the use of the Army, and we shall have occasion for all that can possibly be spared from each of those states to subsist our Horses. At present Jersey cannot furnish a sufficiency to Forage the great number of Teams passing through there, altho' the gentleman employed in that state has as much Interest & Industry as any one in it; he complains of the great Price demanded; the same complaints from my Agents in Penns^{a}, N. York & Connecticut, & all agree that from various causes, the Forage is not brought to Market. The absence of the Militia in some Places in service, has been one cause of their not threshing, & in many the expectation of a rising Price induces them to keep it back. Some measures are necessary to bring them to thresh & deliver all that can be spared for the use of the Army. The limitting a generous Price beyond which they would not have an expectation of a rise, would have a good effect. They should deliver it at the seasons in which it is most wanted, Viz. during the Fall, Winter & Spring, Therefore I would propose that his Excell'y Genl. Washington should be informed of this, & be requested to write to the different Legislatures to take the most effectual measures to Assist my Agents in the different Districts in the Collection of Forage, by limitting the Prices & enforcing a delivery of the Hay & Grain, that can be spared, at stated Periods, also in furnishing Carriages to Hawl the same in their respective states, to such Places as it may be most wanted at. If the Prices should be limitted from Penns^{a} to Connecticut inclusive, it may be necessary to make an application to the Legislatures of Delaware, Maryland & Virginia on the same occasion, as the conveniency of Water Carriage from, & the great abundance of Corn & Oats in those states, as well as the insufficiency of Grain in the others, will make it necessary to draw regularly from them.

The proposition you made of a number of Ox Teams, would be a great relief, if they could be procured, as the Oxen would be subsisted on grass & a very little Hay; In the Winter a small quantity

of grain would be necessary. I submit it to you, lay such part of this before the general as you may think necessary,

And am, Dear Sir,

Your Most obedient Servant,

CLEMENT BIDDLE,

C. G. F.

(Copy.)

P. S. There is so little grain threshed in this & the adjoining states, & our Present situation requiring immediate supplies, there is no time to be lost in adopting some method to get the Farmers to work.

Directed,

To Colonel Charles Pettit, A. Q^r M^r G.

Council to Hon. Jos. Reed, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, September 8, 1778.

Sir,

The situation of public affairs in this State, renders your attendance here, immediately, indispensibly necessary. The Council have therefore, on mature deliberation, thought it proper to express in the strongest terms, their desire that you will not fail to set out for this City as soon as possible. Besides the many other services which are expected from you here, your attendance at Chester on Monday or Tuesday next if it be practicable, would probably be attended with very considerable and important advantages. Your attachment to the interest and wellfare of the State, renders it unnecessary to add any other motives to induce you without hesitation to return here.

Jona D. Sergeant to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Philad'a, 8 Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

It is now more than a year since the Supreme Executive Council did me the Honour to appoint me to the office of Attorney General of this Commonwealth. From the Beginning to this Time I have found the Labour so great, & the Compensation so very inadequate, that I have long wished to be discharged from it; but the shame of Desertion in Time of Danger & the hope of more liberal appointments, when the Legislature should have Leisure to attend to it, have hitherto restrained me. These Considerations are at length pretty fully removed; and I must therefore beg you to make my most grateful acknowledgment to Council for all their Favours at the same time that I most humbly beg you will grant me leave to resign my Commission.

I am,
with the greatest Respect,
Your most obedt &
very hble serv^{t},
JONA D. SERGEANT.

Directed,
Hon. M^{r} Bryan.

J. and A. Wilcocks to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

Philad'a, Sept^{r} y^{e} 9th, 1778.

Sir,

We did ourselves the Honor to address a Letter to you some Time ago, soliciting the attention of Congress to our Memorial which is before them. As we are informed they have not yet come to any Determination, We take the Liberty to express our most earnest Desire, that they may soon take it into Consideration.

It is now near three Months, that we have postponed the sale of our Salt, in Deference to the Resolve of Congress of the 4th of June, Gen Arnold's Proclamation, &c. Any Gentleman who reflects upon this Circumstance of Delay, will be sensible how Injurious it is to our Interest. We flatter ourselves, that it will not be thought (on our part) disrespectfull to Congress, if we should proceed to sell our Salt next week, unless we receive from them some Intimation to the

contrary. And altho' from a thorough Knowledge of the Transaction, we cannot in the least apprehend any Determination prejudicial to our Property, yet if it should be otherwise, we hope that our Fortunes are sufficient to answer any Pretensions that may be set up by Congress on Acc^t of the Salt.

We are,

With great Respect,

Your Most Obd^t

Huml Serv^ts,

JOHN WILCOCKS,

ALEX^r WILCOCKS.

Indorsement,

Read Order on this that the report of the Com^ee appointed in conjunction w^th a Com^ee of the Council of Pensylv^a to determine property, &c., be taken into consideration on Friday.*

Directed,

His Excellency Henry Laurens, Esquire, President of Congress.

Resolution of Assembly respecting Chains, 1778.

In General Assembly,

Wednesday, September 9, A. M.

The interruption occasioned by the passing and repassing of Waggons and other Carriages along Chestnut Street in front of the State House, together with the noise of Drums beating during the Sitting of the Honourable Congress and the Councils of this State, being found very inconvenient and occasioning great Delays.

Therefore Upon Motion.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of this State, to order a sufficient Rope or Chain to be stretched across the said Street at the Upper and Lower end of the State House Square, and strictly forbid the Beating of Drums near the State House, during the Hours that either of the public Bodies aforesaid are sitting for the dispatch of publick Business.

Extract of the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, J^r,

Clk of Gen^l Assembly.

* See pages 703, 724.

Col. L. Nicola to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Sept^r 9th, 1778.

Sir,

I yesterday found we were on a wrong scent after the gentlemen who removed from Mrs. Magees Lodging, immediately on my arresting Dr. Berkenhaut,* who proves to be a different person from the gentleman who talked so freely at the coffee-house, as the former immediately quitted the city & was met in the Jerseys on the road towards Staten Island, as the gentlemen who first informed me of him told me yesterday.

I think it necessary to inform the Council of this as there is some thing particular in those two gentlemen's lodging in the same house, & the whole gives much reason to think something improper is carrying on in this city, & that the council may think it necessary to have straugers coming into this city carefully watched.

I am Sir,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Chas. Pettit to Gen. Washington, 1778.

Camp, White Plains, 10th Sept^r, 1778.

Sir,

The scarcity of Forage, and the Reluctance with which the farmers part with what they have to spare, has for some time past filled me with more alarming Apprehensions than I have felt on account of any other Branch of the Quarter Master's Department. The necessary Consumption of Forage, not only in and about the Army, but for the numerous Teams employed in the inland Transportation of Provisions and Stores, has so far exhausted the Resources of former Crops, that every Farmer in the middle states discerns that the demand for Grain is equal, if not more than equal to all that can possibly be furnished, and of course that the Purchasers, whether for publick or private use, must of necessity pay whatever price shall be insisted on. The Discretion of each individual is therefore the only Boundary to the Price Demanded. Hence we find it impossible, without the Interposition of legislative Authority to adhere steadily to any fixed Price, and at the same time obtain the necessary supplies. For although many of the better disposed among the Farmers wou'd be willing to sell their Forage at the present current Prices if they were not apprehensive their more avaricious neighbours would obtain

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 567, 569. 576.

a higher Price for theirs; yet while they see Prices constantly rising and unbounded, they are unwilling to preclude themselves from the Advantages which Experience has taught them may be obtained by withholding their commodities from the present market. This increases the Avidity of the demand, and of course obliges the purchaser to submit to the terms imposed by the seller. The enormous increase of the Publick Expenditures, though perhaps the greatest, is but one of the Evils which must attend the permitting the Prices of Grain to continue rising without any other Limitation than the capricious Discretion of the Sellers of it. The mischief is increased both in size and velocity by every step it advances, and must, if permitted to continue, produce the most pernicious consequences, on the other hand, if the Legislatures of the respective States will give us their Aid, by fixing a table of Prices between Individuals and the Publick, and establishing a legal mode as well for the obtaining at such prices what each Individual can spare, as for ascertaining the Quantity which may be taken in case of Dispute, I imagine the Quantity of Grain in the Country will be found more adequate to the Demand than present appearances indicate.

From the scarcity, whether real or artificial which we now feel, and have for some time past experienced in the states northward of Chesapeak Bay, we have been under the necessity of drawing considerable Quantities of Grain from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware; the Transportation of which not only enhances the Price, but by employing more Teams in the Publick Service, increases the consumption. If therefore the Inhabitants of the States more contiguous to the Army could be induced to deliver, in a short Time, what they can with Propriety spare, it would not only enable us to form our Magazines in due Season, but might authorise us to relax our demand on the distant Places from which supplies are transported at so great an Expence.

I take the Liberty of troubling your Excellency with these Facts and observations, together with a letter from Col. Biddle* commissary Gen. of Forage, which is inclosed herewith, on a Confidence that a Representation of the Matter from your Excellency to the Legislatures of the respective states, either immediately or thro' Congress, will be the most likely way to have the Business speedily and effectually attended to, and to procure it that Dispatch which its importance demands.

I have the Honour to be
with the greatest Respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble Servant,
CHA. PETTIT, A. Q. M. G.

Directed.
His Excellency General Washington.
(Copy).

* See page 738.

Gen. Jno. Armstrong to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Carlisle, 10th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Altho' I highly approve y^{r} Ideas for the relaxation of part of the Penal Laws, yet find at this place y^{t} the populace will be divided in sentiment on that point. This is a conveyance I did not expect, and have only a moment to write, but hope in a few days to write you again by Mr. Duncan. I have heard of the charge ags^{t} Mr. Flower & see y^{e} issue in the papers, but of the manner of proceduer in tryal or on what evidence we know not; There are many important things to these States which I know to be wrong & ill conducted, but how they will be remedied God only knows.

We are disagreeably amused with a story of the Assemblys favouring the petition of some notable Tory, thereby at once giving disgust & dispensing with the Law, but think it must be wrong reported, Mr. Whitehill & John Burd are principally blamed, I wish the house may be well directed, no man has yet said any thing seriously to me on the ensuing election, but have heard hints as that but few of the members for this county would be sent back—I cou'd wish to have a few thoughts from Coll. Bayard thro' y^{r} Pen, no news from the West.

I thank the Council as well for the intimation by secretary Matlack's letter as for their confidence fully expressed in the subject of it, I mean the important tryals at Bedford,* from which I should most heartily wish to have been excused having in substance determined not to touch any thing of that sort again. I am always a debtor to my Country, but am persuaded there is a time when the publick must resign their claims of that sort, and to which in my own feellings I have now an ample supercedius. Private circumstances also happen to be against my going, yet god willing I do in this instance disagreeable as it appears to be intend going up, and the last Tuesday of this Month is the time appointed, Mes^{srs} Hubley & McClean should be pushed that they do not fail to attend.

I am dear Sir,

very respectfully yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

The Honorable George Bryan, Esq., Philadelphia.

Favour'd by Mr. White.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 581.

Council to Board of War, 1778.

In Council,

Philadelphia, September 11, 1778.

Gentlemen,

Col. Smith was directed by Council to wait on you some time ago and remind you that the time of Service of the Militia now in the field would shortly expire, and to request to know whether the Board of War would countenance the keeping of the present, or any other number in service, but having received no answer to that application, we now apply for your direction herein.

The Lieutenants of the counties of Northumberland, and Northampton are ordered to muster the Militia now in Service, as we had received no information that your Board had given order in that behalf.

I am, &c.

Directed,

Hn'ble Board of War.

Navy Board to Executive Council, 1778.

Navy Board, Middle District,

11th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

We are directed to equip a small Vessel belonging to the Continent with Guns, &c., & as we have occasion for a few Swivels for that purpose, we have to request you will be so kind as to send, for the use of the Continent, six Swivels & two small Howitzers, & we shall, you may depend, be careful to have them safely returned.

We are very respectfully

Sir,

your most obedient servants,

JAMES SEARLE.

JOHN WHARTON.

Directed,

The Hon'ble the President of the Executive Council.

Council to Colonel John Bull, 1778.

In Council,
Philadelphia, September 12, 1778.

Sir,

The Council have determined to erect a battery of four Guns at Billingsport,* and a battery of two guns at Mud island, with temporary barracks for the accomodation of the necessary number of men to man the guns at Billingsport, and to accommodate the guards necessary to be kept at Mud island.

For this purpose you are to employ workmen and to procure the necessary materials, and the means of conveying them to those places, so as to have the work completed as expeditiously as possible.

There are in the possession of Mr. Robert Alison, the Plank and other timber, spikes, &c., taken from the Bastions left by the enemy near this city; such of these as you shall find to be useful for the aforesaid purpose, you are to apply to him for; and also for one or more of the barracks erected by the enemy in the s^{d} bastions.

The purchase of the necessary utensils, if they cannot be had of the Quarter Master General, and the purchase of Provisions, will also come within your direction.

For these purposes money will be put into your hands until a proper person shall be appointed as pay master.

G. B., V. P.

There is a quantity of spades, shovels, &c., belonging to the State, at Easton.

Directed,
Col^{l} John Bull.

Brig. Gen'l Anthony Wayne to Captain Craig, 1778.

Camp, White Plains, 16th Sep'r, 1778.

Sir,

You are to proceed from hence to Phil^{a} on the Recruiting Service; on your arrival there you are to wait on His Excellency the President for Orders, & on the County Lieu^{t} for money.

I can only direct that you be particularly Careful not to Enlist

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 570, 572, 575, 576.

any man that is not strong, healthy, & clear from Ruptures or sore legs; & be guarded against British Deserters.

I have the fullest Confidence in your Diligence & Activity in the service that you are going upon—it being of the first Consequence to produce a powerful Army in the field sufficient to meet our Enemy on any Ground, who from Present Appearances, are Determined to prosecute the war for an Other Campaign at least.

I wish you success, and am

your most Ob^{t}

Hum^{l} Serv^{t},

ANT'Y WAYNE, B. G.

Comm^{g} the Penns^{a} Line.

Directed,

Capt. Craig, of the 3^{d} P. Reg't.

Council to John Ralston, &c., 1778.

Philadelphia, 17th Septem'r, 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Honourable House of Assembly were addressed, just before their late adjournment, by Eve Yoder and Esther Bachman in behalf of themselves & their Husbands, & the families of divers others, inhabitants of Upper Saucon, in the County of Northampton, whose heads or husbands had been sentenced to be banished by the Quarter Sessions of the County, their personal Estate to be forfeited to the Commonwealth, & their real property to descend to their heirs respectively, as if they were naturally dead, for refusing Assurance of Allegiance according to an Act of Assembly, entitled "An Act for the further security of Government." They set forth that the personal Goods of those persons were all seized & sold by the sheriff, and their famillies left destitute of the necessaries of life, & pray for some mitigation of the sentence, & so forth.

The House, on consideration of this petition, recommended the case of these people to Council, and that if the facts therein set forth be found on enquiry to be true, such relief as may be thought proper, may be granted, by a draught on the State Treasurer.

As it would be only adding to the difficulties, which these people already complain of, to expect they should support the allegations contained in their petition, before this Board, & as their condition can be much better opened & understood on the spot, you are requested by Council to take an early opportunity of enquiring into

the matter, that on your report & advice an order may be sent by the State Treasurer to the sheriff of y^e^ County to relieve their present difficulties. For this purpose, you have inclosed Copies of the petition above mentioned, and the vote of Assembly thereupon. Doubting not of your good disposition in favour of distress, in whatever shape, I remain, Gent^n^,

y^r^ most obed Serv^t^,

G. B., V. P^t^.

Directed.

To John Ralston and Peter Roads, Esqr's, and Doctor Linn.*

Col. Jacob Stroud to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Lowersmithfield, Sept. 18th, 1778.

Worthy Sir,

I take this opportunity to send the within Inclosed Proceedings of a Court Martial, as the Militia Law Directs the Proceedings of General Courts Martial to be sent to the Commanding Officer of the Militia; I not knowing how that was I sent it to Col. John Wetzel, Lieut. of the County, but he gave it to me again, and Informed me that I should send it to your Excellency, I therefore now forward it, & am sorry it has been so Long Delayed.

From Sir, your

Most Obed't Humble Serv't,

JACOB STROUD.

Council to Major Gen. Arnold, 1778.

Sir,

Your letter of this day,† with that enclosed from the Board of War, has been laid before the Council; and I am directed to inform you, that the seventh class of militia now called into service, which ought to have yielded four hundred men, has produced eighty only, these are now ready to enter on duty. The Council have now ordered out the eighth class, which it is expected will yield a greater number.‡ The uncertainty however will remain for a few days, and

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 579.

† Not found.

‡ Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 581.

if this class should fall short of the number required, other classes will be called as expeditiously as possible.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Your most obedient servant,
T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1778.

Directed.

Major General Arnold.

Board of War to Maj. Gen. Arnold, 1778.

War Office, Sept. 18, 1778.

Sir,

The following extract of a letter from Gen. Washington was yesterday referred by Congress to this board, viz. :

"I hope all the confederal troops are on the march from Philadelphia, and if they are not, that immediate orders will be given for their joining the army."

The board request you to inform them of the prospect you have of getting the militia to supply the place of the confederal troops here, & when the latter may be marched to the army. The repeated applications of the commander in chief on this head, show the necessity of dispatching the troops as soon as possible.

We are, Sir, your obed't servants,
By order of the board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

M. Gen. Arnold.

Council to Commodore Hazelwood, 1778.

Philadelphia, 18th Sept, 1778.

Sir,

Herewith you have Copy of the request of Congress to station one of our Gallies near the mouth of the Cape May Channell, in Delaware Bay. Altho' it is not safe, if practicable, to continue one of the low-built Gallies in so exposed a situation, yet Council would do all that is proper to enforce the Embargo; In this view you are hereby ordered to send down the Delaware, as far as Reedy Island,

or even farther, if there should be cause to suspect that any fraudulent practices are carrying on, a Guard boat, properly fitted & manned, with orders to inspect all vessels, in order to discover whether any are loading or have loaden any provisions outward bound. By a late act passed here, vessels that shall take in any, within this Government, are forfeited, with their Cargoes, & are seizable by the naval or other officer. These should be brought up to the City. The naval officer is Dr Phile; should they have transgressed beyond the Bounds of Pennsylvania, you are referred for direction to the Resolve of Congress above mentioned.

It will be very proper, after a few days, to dispatch another guard boat on the same errand, & with like orders, for abuses will otherwise pass without notice.

Indorsed,

To Commodore Hazlewood.

Council to J. Hubley, 1778.

Philadelphia, 19th Septemr, 1778.

Sir,

I am directed by Council to reiterate their request that you will give the public your assistance on the Court of Oyer & Terminer, to be holden at Bedford,* for trial of the Traytors who took the desperate Course of Joining the Indians against their Country. As this flagitious crime appears to have been committed by multitudes along the frontier, there is the greater & louder call for immediate and exemplary Justice. It is hoped that your affairs will not so much interfere as to prevent your going up. General Armstrong will, I understand, be there; But lest his infirmity of Body hinder, it would be very satisfactory to hear that you made a point of attending.

The time fixed is Monday, the 29th Instant. I have it in my power to say that the Commissioners will have authority effectually, to deliver the Goal, as a Commission is gone up for the Trial of a person charged with murder, left out in the first Commission thro' want of information of his name, & the appelation of the Child he is said to have killed.

I am, Sir, &c.,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

To John Hubley, Esqr, Lancaster, and to Archd McCleane, Esqr., York.

* See page 546.

JOHN ETTWEIN TO SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, 1778.

To His Excellency George Bryan, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Honoured Sir,

You will excuse me that I trouble you again with the Concerns of a few Individuals belonging to the United Brethren. We gave great Offence to the Justices who had issued a summons for all the Inhabitants of Bethlehem, Nazareth and Emmaus, in laying it before Government, and disobeying it on Account of its Illegality. But they have hitherto done nothing further against Bethlehem, &c[a], but have issued an other Summons for the male Inhabitants at Emmaus, mentioning their Names, to appear before them at Bethlehem, September 18[th]. On their Appearance, and refusing to take the Test as it stands, and also declining to give Security for their Appearance before the next Court, the Justices wrote their Committment, and the Constable granted them Leave to return home and to appear at Court on Tuesday next. Esq[r] Levers, who was accidently here last Night, is much afraid that the Court might act with these poor People with the same Rigour last Court has done with the Mennonists in Saucon, and therefore advised me to send to your Honour an Express, to beg the Favour of You, to recommend it to the President of Easton Court, M[r] Silleman, in a few Lines, if possible, to postpone the Prosecution against the Reverend M[r] Francis Boehler, and the others named in the said Summons, most of whom have suffered a Month's Imprisonment before. I believe they would be willing to give security for their Appearance before the December Court, and apprehend their refusing to give security now, and choosing rather to go to Goal, was from a Notion that this present Court could not, in that Case, pass Judgment upon them, and they might gain Time to see what an other Application to the new General Assembly might effect. I do, therefore, most humbly pray that Your Honour would please to write a few Lines in their Favour to the Court, or to give some other Advice for their Relief. I can assure Your Honour that all the above Persons so summoned, are quiet, good, and faithfull subjects of the state.

I am, with high Esteem,

Your Honours

most humble Servant,

JOHN ETTWEIN.

Bethlehem, Septemb[r] 19[th], 1778.

Council to Jacob Rush, Esq., 1778.

Philad^{a}, September 21, 1778.

Sir,

Council stand informed that you have engaged to assist the Attorney General on the trial of the Active, Underwood, and that two gentlemen, passagers on board of that vessel, are about to depart this state for S. Carolina, by permission from Congress; the name of the one is Holmes, of the other, Jackson. As it is of great importance to have the evidence of these two gentlemen, and M^{r} Sergeant will be engaged by the necessary attendance on the court now sitting, you are requested to obtain their evidence.

Directed,

To Jacob Rush, Esq^{r}.

Gen. Washington to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Head Quarters,

Fredericksburg, 22d Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

I do myself the honor of transmitting you copies of two letters from Col^{o} Biddle and Charles Pettit, Esqr.,* upon the subject of forage. The representations of these gentlemen are so full and so well founded respecting the difficulties that attend the getting of this important article, from the reluctance of the holders to part with it, and the exorbitant and enormous prices they demand for it, that I shall not trouble you with any observations upon the occasion—However, I think it necessary to add, that unless some effectual means can be devised by which the army may be supplied with forage, with more certainty, and on terms much more moderate than it is at present, it will be impossible for it to exist long. What the means will be I shall not attempt to point out, for I confess the subject appears to me to be involved in great intricacy, and I am the less inclined to enter upon it, from a perfect conviction that you and the other branches of your legislature will be forward to adopt every expedient that may seem calculated to afford the smallest relief in this interesting and essential point.

I have the honor to be,

with respect and esteem, Sir,

your most obt. Serv^{t}.

G^{o}. WASHINGTON.

Hon'ble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President.

(Circular.)

* See pages 738, 742.

Report of Committee of Congress, 1778.

The Committee of Congress, in conjunction with the Committee appointed by the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to ascertain the Property of the Goods, Wares and Merchandize in Possession of the Inhabitants of the City of Philadelphia, at the time it was evacuated by the enemy, viz., so far as to determine whether any or what part thereof may belong to the King of Great Britain, or to any of his subjects—beg leave to report, That they find Captn Stepn Backhouse, of Liverpool, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, came to the city of Philadelphia in December last, with a cargo of Liverpool Salt, a part of which he deposited in a Store belonging to Joseph Prichard, on the lower side of Chesnut street wharf; That on the twenty third day of the same month, the said Stephen Backhouse, in Behalf of himself and one Nich's Ashton, of Liverpool aforesd, did consign the said Salt to Messrs Amos Foulke, an Inhabitant of this City, and one William Backhouse, who came to this City from New York last Fall or Winter, either with the Enemy or some little time after. The form of the Consignment is as follows, viz:

Messrs Backhouse & Foulke,

Gentlemen,

The Salt in Mr. Pritchards and Mr. Barges Store, belonging to me and Mr. Ashton, of Liverpool, is 4285 Bushels, which I consign to you for Sales, & shall be glad you will dispose of it as soon as you can, but do not wish to have it sold for less than One Dollar ℔ Bushell, but hope it will sell for more, and as you sell the Salt you will please to remit, in good Bills, to Nich's Ashton, Esqr., of Liverpool.

I am, Gentle'n,

Your humble Servt,

STEP'N BACKHOUSE.

That the Keys of the Store were, at the time of the Consignment, delivered by the said Step'n Backhouse to the said Amos Foulke and Wm. Backhouse; That soon after the said Step'n Backhouse went to New York; that the said Amos Foulke paid Rent for the Store during several Months; That the said Amos Foulke, one of the Consignees of said Salt, and Al'r Willcox, an Inhabitant of this City, do both of them alledge and declare, that after several conversations had by and between the sd Al'r Willcox and the sd Amos Foulke, about the purchase of sd Salt, the sd Al'r Willcox for himself, and John Willcox and Wm. McMurtrie, on the 17th day of June last, being the Day before the Enemy evacuated the City, did purchase 3,500 Bushells of Liverpool Salt, then lying in the said Prichards Store, at 7s 6d Pennsylvania Curr ℔ Bushell, which quantity of Salt was supposed to be all the Salt then remaining in the

s[d] Prichards Store, of the said Salt imported from Liverpool as aforesaid, and deposited there; That a Bill of Parcells for the same Salt was on the same day made and given by the said Amos Foulke to the s[d] Al'r Willcox, &c., and the s[d] Amos Foulke further alleges, that he made an Entry of the Sale on the same day in his Books; and the said Amos Foulke and Al'r Willcox both alledge, that the Key of the said Store was delivered to the said Al'r Willcox, on the same Day by the s[d] Amos Foulke, and they both agree that no part of the purchase money hath yet been paid.

But whether under the afore recited circumstances, the s[d] Salt ought now to be considered as the Property of British Subjects, the s[d] Committee beg leave to submit to Congress.

Your Committee also beg leave further to sit upon the Business committed to them.

Mess. J. & A. Wilcocks to Pres. of Congress, 1778.

Philad'a, Sept. y[e] 25th, 1778.

Sir,

As we are informed that Congress has not come to any Determination npon the subject of our Memorial, you will please excuse our reminding you of that business; And as we flatter ourselves, we shall not be obliged to trouble you again upon this Occasion, We take the Liberty to inform you, That a considerable time ago, after the Commissary Gen'l had applied to purchase our Salt, we offered to let Col. Blaine have above two thirds of it at a very moderate rate, not one half the Price at which Salt now sells. Notwithstanding the Difficulties that have been thrown in our Way, we are yet willing that the Public shall have the Quantity stipulated with Col. Blaine, at the Price we then demanded. But should Congress determine to prossecute any pretensions to this Salt, inconsistent with our Rights & Property in it, We presume they will be of Opinion with us, and many Gentlemen acquainted with the circumstances of this Case, That any Engagement we may at present be presumed to be under to Col. Blaine, will thereby be entirely cancelled, and we shall be under no Obligation to supply the Public with any Part of the Salt at a lower Rate than the Current Price. We propose to sell our Salt after the Expiration of this week.

We have the Honor to be

Your most Obdt Hum[l] Servts,

JOHN WILCOCKS.
ALEX'R WILCOCKS.*

Directed,

His Excellency Henry Laurens, Esqr., President of Congress.

* See pages 703, 724, 740.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress, August 26, 1776.

Whereas, in the course of the present war, some commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the army and navy, as also private soldiers, marines and seamen, may lose a limb, or be otherwise so disabled as to prevent their serving in the army or navy, or getting their livelihood, and may stand in need of relief:

Resolved, That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer and private soldier, who shall lose a limb in any engagement, or be so disabled in the service of the United States of America, as to render him incapable afterwards of getting a livelihood, shall receive during his life, or the continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay from and after the time that his pay as an officer or soldier ceases; to be paid by the committee as hereafter mentioned:

That every commander of any ship of war or armed vessel, commissioned officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman belonging to the United States of America, who shall lose a limb in any engagement in which no prize shall be taken, or be therein otherwise so disabled as to be rendered incapable of getting a livelihood, shall receive, during his life or the continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay from and after the time that his pay as an officer or marine, or seaman, ceases; to be paid as hereafter mentioned. But in case a prize shall be taken at the time such loss of limb or other disability shall happen, then such sum as he may receive out of the net profits of such prize, before a dividend is made of the same, agreeable to former orders of Congress, shall not be considered as part of his half pay, and computed accordingly:

That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, and private soldier in the army, and every commander, commissioned officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman of any of the ships of war, or armed vessels belonging to the United States of America, who shall be wounded in any engagement so as to be rendered incapable of serving in the army or navy, though not totally disabled from getting a livelihood, shall receive such monthly sum as shall be judged adequate by the assembly or other representative body of the state where he belongs or resides, upon application to them for that purpose, provided the same doth not exceed his half pay.

Provided that no commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer and private soldier in the army, commander, commission officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman of any of the ships of war or armed vessels belonging to the United States of America, who shall be wounded or disabled as aforesaid, shall be entitled to his half pay or other allowance, unless he produce to the committee or officer appointed to receive the same in the state where he resides or belongs, or to the assembly or legislative body of such state, a certificate

from the commanding officer who was in the same engagement in which he was so wounded, or in case of his death, from some other officer of the same corps, and the surgeon that attended him, or a certificate from the commander of the ship of war or armed vessel engaged in the action in which any officer, marine or seaman received his wound, and from the surgeon who attended him, of the name of the person so wounded, his office, rank, department, regiment, company, ship of war, or armed vessel to which he belonged, his office or rank therein, the nature of his wound, and in what action or engagement he received it:

That it be recommended to the several assemblies or legislative bodies of the United States of America, to appoint some person or persons in their respective states, who shall receive and examine all such certificates as may be presented to them, and register the same in a book, and also what support is adjudged by the assembly or legislative body of their state to those whose case requires but a partial support, and also of the payment from time to time of every half pay and other allowance, and of the death of such disabled person, or ceasing of such allowance, and shall make a fair and regular report of the same quarterly to the Secretary of Congress or Board of War, where a separate record shall be kept of the same:

That it be recommended to the assemblies or legislative bodies of the several states, to cause payment to be made of all such half pay or other allowances as shall be adjudged due to the persons aforenamed, on account of the United States.

Provided that all such officers and soldier that may be entitled to the aforesaid pension, and are found to be capable of doing guard or garrison duty, shall be formed into a corps of invalids, and subject to the said duty: and all officers, marines and seamen of the navy who shall be entitled to the pension aforesaid, and shall be found capable of doing any duty on board the navy or any department thereof, shall be liable to be so employed.

In Congress, September 25, 1778.

WHEREAS Congress by a resolve, passed on the 26th of August, 1776, made provision for commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the army and navy, as also for private soldiers, marines and seamen, who should thereafter lose a limb in any engagement, or be otherwise so disabled in the service of the United States of America, as to render them incapable afterwards of getting a livelihood: And whereas divers officers and others have lost limbs, or been otherwise disabled as aforesaid, before the said 26th of August, to whom the like relief ought equitably to be extended.

Resolved, That all provisions and regulations contained in the said resolve of the 26th of August, 1776, shall extend to all persons who lost a limb, or were otherwise disabled as aforesaid, in the service of the United Colonies or States of America, before the said 26th of

August, and since the commencement of hostilities on the 19th of April, 1775.

And whereas doubts may arise in some cases, whether certain persons maimed or disabled, and claiming pensions, were at the time in the service of the said Colonies or States; For removing the same,

Resolved, That every commissioned and non-commissioned officer and private man, who, since the commencement of hostilities as aforesaid, has been, or hereafter shall be drawn forth for the common defence (and not for the service of any particular state) or who has turned out, or shall hereafter turn out voluntarily to oppose the enemies of the said United Colonies or States, upon any sudden attack or invasion, or upon any enterprize carried on under their authority, and in such service has lost, or shall lose a limb, or has been or shall be otherwise disabled as aforesaid, shall be entitled to the pension allowed in the said resolve of the 26th August, 1776.

Provided that any such commissioned or non-commissioned officer or private men, being found capable of doing guard or garrison duty, shall be subject thereto, and serve in the corps of invalids when required, or on refusing so to do, shall be struck off the list of pensioners, unless the person so refusing have a family, or be otherwise peculiarly circumstanced; and the governor or president and council of the state he belongs to, or in which he resides, are of opinion an exception should be made in his favour, and an exemption granted him from such service, a certificate of which opinion he shall produce previous to his receiving his pension.

And whereas it may happen that many persons maimed or disabled as aforesaid, by reason of their falling into the hands of the enemy, the deaths of their officers and surgeons, or other accidents, may not have it in their power to procure the certificates required by the afore-mentioned resolve, to intitle them to their pensions:

Resolved, That in such cases application be made to the governor or president and council of the state, to which any person maimed or disabled as aforesaid belongs, or in which he resides, and upon shewing to him or them satisfactory proof, that he was maimed or disabled in the manner before mentioned, and producing his or their certificate thereof, he shall be entitled to and receive a pension in like manner as if he produced the certificates required by the said resolve.

Extract from the Minutes,
CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

* From a printed handbill.

Board of War to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

War Office, Sept^r 26, 1778.

Sir,

The Commander in Chief, on the 30th of June last, gave instructions to Brigadier General Portail, chief engineer in the American service, to proceed to Philadelphia, with such of his assistants as he should think necessary, to take a full & complete survey of the city, the river Delaware,* and their environs, in order from a collected view of the whole, to form a well digested plan for the defence of y^e river, and consequently the city. General Portail came hither accordingly, but in two or three days was sent for to attend General Lee's trial; and nothing has been done yet by him or his assistants. Col^o Laumoy is now arrived here for the purpose, and requests he may be favoured with the plans and surveys made by General du Coudray.† These, we understand, are in possession of the Supreme Executive Council; If they are we beg you will be pleased to indulge us with them, that we may furnish the Engineer with such as may aid him in accomplishing the views of the General.

We are, Sir,
very respectfully,
Your most obedient Servants,
By order of the Board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
The Honbl George Bryan, Esq^r, Vice-president.

Resolutions of Congress, 1778.

In Congress,
September 26, 1778.

Resolved,

That a house be provided at the city or place where Congress shall sit, wherein shall be held the several Offices of the Treasury:

That there be the following offices, viz. the Comptrollers's, Auditor's, Treasurer's and two Chambers of Accounts:

That each Chamber of Accounts consist of three Commissioners and two Clerks, to be appointed by Congress:

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 587.

† See Archives, Vol. V., p. 526, &c. This officer was accidentally drowned in Schuylkill, Sept. 16, 1777. See Shallus, Vol. II., p. 208.

That in the Treasurer's office there be a Treasurer annually appointed by Congress, and one Clerk appointed by the Treasurer:

That in the Auditor's office there be an Auditor annually appointed by Congress, and two Clerks appointed by the Auditor:

That in the Comptroller's office there be a Comptroller annually appointed by Congress, and two Clerks appointed by the Comptroller:

That the Auditor, Treasurer and Comptroller shall not be appointed unless by the voice of nine states; and that they be accountable for the conduct of their Clerks respectively:

That the Auditor shall receive all accounts brought against the United States for money lent, expended, or advanced; goods sold or purchased; services performed or work done; with the vouchers; and shall refer them to one of the chambers of accounts; indorsing them in the manner marked A:

That the Commisioner of a chamber to whom an account shall be referred, shall deliver the same to their Clerks to be properly stated:

That the Clerk shall state the accounts referred by the Commissioners, number and arrange the vouchers, examine the castings, and make necessary copies:

That the Clerks to whom an account shall be delivered, after they have compleated the same, shall indorse it in the manner marked B:

That the commissioners to whom an account is referred as aforesaid, shall carefully examine the authenticity of the vouchers (rejecting such as shall not appear good,) compare them with the articles to which they relate, and determine whether they support the charges: That they shall reduce such articles as are over charged, and reject such as are improper; and shall indorse the accounts in the manner marked C, and transmit them, with the vouchers, to the Auditor, and cause an entry to be made of the balance passed:

That the Auditor shall receive the vouchers and accounts from the Commissioners to whom he referred them, and cause them to be examined by his Clerks. He shall compare the several articles with the vouchers, and if the parties concerned shall appeal from the judgment of the Commisioners, he shall call before him the Commissioners and the party, and hear them, and then make determination, from whence no appeal shall lie, unless to Congress. That after a careful examination of the account as aforesaid, he shall indorse it in the manner marked D; of which indorsement he shall send a duplicate to be filed in the same chamber of accounts, and shall transmit the accounts and vouchers to the Comptroller:

That the Comptroller shall keep the Treasury books and seal, and shall file the accounts and vouchers on which the accounts in the said book are founded, and shall direct the manner of stating and keeping the public accounts. He shall draw bills under the said seal on the Treasurer for such sums as shall be due by the United States on accounts audited, which previous to the payment shall be countersigned by the Auditor; and also for such sums as may from time to time, be ordered by Resolutions of Congress,

which, previous to the payment, shall be countersigned by the Secretary of Congress in the form marked E: That when monies are due to the United States on accounts audited, he shall notify the debtor, (and after hearing him, if he shall desire to be heard,) fix a day for payment, according to the circumstances of the case, not exceeding ninety days, of which he shall give notice to the Auditor in writing, in form marked F:

That it be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and keep the monies of the United States, and to issue them on bills drawn by the Comptroller as aforesaid, filing duplicates thereof with the Auditor day by day as he shall make payment: That on receipt of monies he shall give a receipt therefor, and transmit the same to the Comptroller; and that he shall draw out and settle his accounts quarterly, giving the same into the Auditor for examination by one of the Chambers of Accounts, to be from thence transmitted through the Auditor to the Comptroller, who shall compare the same with the treasury books, ascertain the balance, and return a copy of the same to Congress:

That the Comptroller shall receive from the Treasurer all receipts by him signed, and after making due entry thereof by charging the Treasurer and crediting the proper accounts, he shall indorse the same in the manner marked G, and deliver them to the party who made payment. That he shall, every quarter of a year, cause a list of the ballances on the treasury-books, to be made out by his Clerks, and lay it before Congress. That where any person hath received public monies which remain unaccounted for, or shall be otherwise indebted to the United States, or have an unsettled account with them, he shall issue a summons in the form marked H, in which a reasonable time shall be given for the appearance of the party according to the distance of his place of residence from the treasury, of which he shall notify the Auditor:

That in case a party summoned to account shall not appear, nor make good essoign, the Auditor on proof made of service in due time, or other sufficient notice, shall make out a requisition in the form marked I, which he shall send to the Comptroller's office, where the same shall be sealed; and then it shall be sent to the executive authority of the state in which the party shall reside:

That it be recommended to the several states to enact laws for the taking of such persons, and also to seize the property of persons who being indebted to the United States shall neglect or refuse to pay the same, Notice whereof shall be given by the Auditor to the executive authority of the respective states in the form marked K, under the treasury seal:

That the several officers of the treafury do, before they take upon them the execution of their offices respectively, before the President of Congress, for the time being, make and subscribe the following oath; viz.

"I A. B. in the treasury of the United States, do solemnly and sincerely swear, promise and declare in the

presence of Almighty God, that I will diligently and faithfully, according to the best of my skill and understanding in all things do my duty as a as aforesaid, without fear, favour, affection or partiality."

That in the blanks of the forms* above written, no figures be used either for dates or sums, but that the same be distinctly and plainly set in words at length, and without erazures or interlinations.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Chaloner and White to James Young, 1778.

Philadelphia, September 25th, 1778.

(Copy.)

Sir,

We have rece'd Orders from Head Quarters to lay in at New Windsor a Magazine of Ten thousand Bls. flour. It is of the utmost importance to the support of our Army & the French Fleet, that this Order be immediately executed. We have requested of the Quarter Master Gen'l to call on you for 200 Waggons for this purpose. Permit us to suggest to you the propriety of their being called from the Counties adjacent to York. As they are all to be loaded by Mr. John McCallister at York Town, to whom we beg you would direct your Deputies to order the Waggon Masters to apply. We wish not to urge more on your department than it can comply with; but the many difficulties that will occur by delay in executing this order, obliges us to request of you to inform us how soon you can answer our drafts for the necessary Waggons to compleat it, & what number, at a draft, will be most convenient.

We are, with respect,

your humble servants,

CHALONER & WHITE, A. C. of P.

To James Young, Esqr., Waggon Master General, State Pennsylvania.

* These forms are omitted—they are in the printed handbill from which this is taken.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 488.

JOHN MITCHELL TO JAMES YOUNG.

Philadelphia, 25th September, 1778.

(Copy.)

Sir,

We are called on by his Excellency & also by the Commissary Gen'l for Two Hundred Waggons Immediately, to transport Flour from York Town & Carlisle to New Windsor, must, therefore, request and desire you will order two Hundred good Waggons to be furnished by the Western counties, to transport the flour, &c., cross the Country, as it is of the utmost consequence to have this requisition complied with without delay; hope you will exert all your influence & authority to procure the above number—a considerable number will also be wanted to forward Provisions from Lancaster County & this City to the North River, at least four Hundred.

I am sir,

your most humble servt,

J'N MITCHELL, D. Q. M. G'l.

To James Young, Esqr., Wagn Master Gen'l, State Pennsa.

—

JAMES YOUNG TO CHALONER AND WHITE.

Philadelphia, 25th September, 1778.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to your requisition I have given the orders for 200 Waggons for your Department to attend your orders at York Town, as you will see by the inclosed letters, which I beg you to seal & forward by Express; it is impossible for me to say how soon they can be there, & must refer you to my orders to the County Waggon Masters, who, I hope, will exert themselves; if your Assistant Mr. John MCallister, should find them Dilitary, please let me know & I will do all in my power to expedite the service.

I am, with respect,

your very humble serv't,

J. Y.

To Messrs. Chaloner & White, A. C. of P.

James Young to John Mitchell.

Philadelphia, 26th September, 1778.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Agreeable to your requisition of yesterday, I have given the necessary directions to supply the Commissary Gen'ls Department with two hundred Waggons, but you further write that a considerable number will also be wanted to forward Provisions from Lancaster County & this city to the North River, at least four Hundred. I therefore wish to be informed of the particular number wanted, when & where they are to assemble, that I may be enabled to give timely notice & orders to the County Waggon Masters.

I am sir,

your most humble servant,

J. Y.

To John Mitchell, Esqr., D. Q. M. G'l.

—

James Young to Wagon Masters.

Philadelphia, 25th September, 1778.

(Copy.)

Sir,

I have this day received a requisition from the Quarter Master Gen'ls Department for two Hundred Waggons, Immediately to transport flour from York Town & Carlisle to New Windsor; it is of the utmost importance to the support of our Army & the French Fleet, that this be complied with without the least Delay; I am, therefore, to Request & desire you will send the Quota for your County, as underneath, with all speed to York Town; send them there by Brigades as fast as you possibly can collect them, & direct the Brigade Waggon Masters to apply to Mr. John MCallister, at York Town, for loading. As you have not lately been called on for any Waggons, & this being a very urgent business, I hope you will exert yourself to the utmost of your power, to have it complied with—every possible dispatch must be used. Take notice that, by a law lately passed by our Assembly, the pay for a Waggon & four Horses & one driver, is to be three pounds fifteen shillings ℔ day, when they find their own forage, and two pounds fifteen shillings ℔ day when found by the public. If the owners of Waggons and

teams does not directly turn out on your Orders, I desire they may be forthwith impressed as the Law directs.

I am Sir,

your very humble serv't,

J. Y.

Waggons with four good horses & a driver,

From York Town County,	70
" Cumberland "	65
" Lancaster "	65
	200

To Mr. Joseph Jeffries, 9 miles above Yorktown.
" Mr. Mattheu Gregg, Carlisle.
" James Bayley, Esqr., Lancaster.
Waggon Master's Gen'l for said Counties.

P. S. Please to write to me by the return of the Express, and inform me how soon you will have this demand complyed with.

John Mitchell to James Young, 1778.

Copy.

Philad^{a}, 26th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

Your favor of this day I have duly received, and have sent your Letters to Lancaster, York & Carlisle by express. I am doubtfull all the Teams in York & Carlisle will be wanted to go to Pittsburg, therefore Lancaster must send the number to those places. Two Hundred Teams will be Immediately wanted to convey the Provisions from Lancaster, Lebanon & Riems Town, & four Hundred to convey the provisions from this City to New Winsdor. It is absolutely necessary they should be furnished without the least delay, as the consequences may be of the worst kind. The Fleet & Army depend on it, as the provisions provided for the Army have been sent to the fleet.

If you cannot procure the Teams Immediately please to inform us, that other Steps may be taken.

I am sir,

Your most humble Serv^{t},

JN^{o} MITCHELL,
D. Q. M. G^{l}.

Directed,
Ja^{s} Young, Esq., W. M. Gen^{l} state Penn^{a}.

James Young to Waggon Masters, 1778.

Copy.

Philad^{a}, 27th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

Application is made to me from the Quarter Master Gen^{ls} Department for four hundred Waggons to convey the provisions from this City to new Windsor, & that it is absolutely necessary they should be furnished without the least delay as the consequences may be of the worst kind. The Fleet & Army depend on it as the provisions for the Army have been sent to the Fleet. I therefore most earnestly request you to send the Quota for your County, as underneath, to this City as fast as possible, for that purpose. As the Weather & Roads are now good I hope to see the Waggons all here this Week. If the people are Delitary I desire they may be forthwith impress'd as the Law directs. These 400 Wag^{ns} are exclusive of 200 that I have order'd from Lancaster County to Convey the provisions from that County to New Windsor. So you see the Demand is large from all the Counties & the business very important, therefore pray Exert yourself with all diligence.

I am Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

J. Y.

Circular.

Quota of Waggons for each County.

Philad^{a} County,	70
Bucks,	70
Chester	60
Berks,	110
Northampton,	90
Wag^{ns},	400

Directed,

To the County Wag^{n} Masters.

James Young to James Bayley 1778.

Copy.

Philad^{a}, 27th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Sir,

Altho' I wrote you the Day before Yesterday to send 65 Wagns. immediately to York Town to load flour, Yet I have another Demand on me Yesterday for 400 Wagns. to Convey the provisions from this City to New Windsor, & two hundred to convey the Provisions from Lancaster, Lebanon & Ream's Town to New Windsor. It is absolutely necessary they should be furnished without the least delay, as the Consequences may be of the worst kind. The Fleet & Army depends on it, as the provisions provided for the Army have been sent to the Fleet. I therefore most earnestly request you to furnish 200 Waggons for the purpose of conveying the provisions from Lancaster, Lebanon & Ream's Town; also add 35 to the number order'd the 25th Inst^{t} for York Town, which will make 100, in all 300 from Your County. No doubt you will think the demand very large, but the business is very important & requires your utmost Exertion. If the people are delitary I desire they may be forthwith impress'd as the law directs. The roads & Weather are now good, & I hope you will in a few days have the whole Compleated.

I am

Your very humble Servt.,

J. Y.

Directed,

James Bayley, Esqr., W. M. G. for Lancaster County.

—

Philad^{a}, 27th Sept^{r}, 1778.

Waggons Order'd by the Waggon M^{r} Gen^{l} for immediate Service in Consequence of a requisition from the Quarter Master Genls. Department.

From Lancaster County to go to York Town,	100
From Do To convey provisions from Lancaster, Lebanon & Reams Town,	200
To Come to Philad^{a}:	
From Philad^{a} County,	70
Bucks,	70
Chester,	60
Berks,	110
Northampton County,	90
	700

JOHN VAN CAMPEN, &c., TO V. P. GEORGE BRYAN, 1778.

Lower Smithfield, Northampton County,
Septem^r 27^th^, 1778.

Sir,

We think proper to give your Honour Intiligence of the present Circumstances of this part of the State, relative to the fears the good people of these Townships labours under for fear of the Indians. It is some time past since the Melitia^a^ times were up & they discharg^d^; we for some time after were in hopes that others would be sent to take their place. Above us in Deleware & upper Smithfield, a fine Contry near thirty miles in length, is almost Evacuated, the people moved over to new Jersey for safety; & in this Township there is only a Guard left at Cornl. Stroud, whoes times is almost expired & will soon return home, & unless they are replaced with others we shall lay expos'd to the Ravages of the savages. There is a Verbel report here that Men is sent towards their Towns; as for the certainty we do not know, & if so the success is uncertain, & if the attempt should prove unsuccessful we may soon expect to shere the fate of the later; and as there is no Men to scout to make any discovery, the first notice we may expect is a Stroke, we therefore Submit our case to the wisdom of your Honour & the board of War to grant us such assistance as you in your wisdom shall think Proper.

We are with due respects
your humble sarv^ts^,

JOHN CHAMBERS, Sub L^t^,
BENJAMIN VAN CAMPEN, Sub L^t^,
NICHOLAS DEPUI,
JACOB STROUD, Cornl,
JOHN VAN CAMPEN.

Directed,

To the Honourable George Bryan, Esqr.

Board of War of T. Matlack, 1778.

War office, Sept^{r} 29, 1778.

Sir,

Col. Laumoy has seen the plan of the Delaware,* in the hands of Mr. Rittenhouse, but he tells him he cannot part with it unless by an order of Council. Col. Laumoy wishes to take a copy of it so far as may be useful for executing the General's orders to him. The board therefore request the loan of it a day or two for that purpose.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^{t} servant,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary, &c.

Council to Major Eyre, 1778.

Sir,

The Council direct me to apply to you for an account of the expence of repairing and replacing the Bridge across Schuylkill, at the end of Market Street. †

I therefore request you will please to make out the account and send it to me as soon as possible.

I am, respectfully,

Your very humble servant,

T. M.

Philad^{a}, Sept^{r} 29th, 1778.

To Major Eyre.

* See page 758. † See page 685.

JNO. WATSON, JR., TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Nottingham, Septr 30th, 1778.

Sir,

Whereas, the Galley men belonging to the Pennsylvania State Fleet, while they lay at Watson's Creek, in ye State of N. Jersey, Last Winter, for want of a Timely supply of Wood, were under the Necessity of Burning a Considerable Quantity of Fence for me; the Damage Being valued by two Freeholders of the Township at thirty one pounds, a Certificate of which is in possession of some of the Members of the Late Navy Board, and Notwithstanding I made frequent applications to the Gentlemen of the Board, while in Trenton, I have not been able to get any Satisfaction. Have thought proper to make this application to your Honour, and Beg the said Damage may be paid to Capt. Isaac Roach, who, with the other officers of the Fleet will inform your Honour of all the Particulars that are Necessary.

I am,

With becoming Regard,

Your Honours most obedt &

Most Humble Servt,

JOHN WATSON, Junr.

Honble George Bryan, Esq., President of Council, Philada.

JOHN HUBLEY TO T. MATLACK, 1778.

Lancaster, October 1st, 1778.

Sir,

Just this moment I have received, by the Hands of Mr. Bailey, Printer in this Town, yours of the 19th Ulto., respecting the Business at Bedford, which I suppose was begun the 29th Septr, and it seems by yours as if Council had, before yours, urged the same business, if so, I never received their Letter, nor have I seen their Commission or do I know the Purport of it further than that, among others, my name was inserted in the Commission for holding a Court of Oyer & Terminer at Bedford. Mr. McClean, at York, wrote to me some Time agoe, informing me thereof, and also that General Armstrong had appointed the 29th Septr for being at Bedford. But it was out of my Power to attend at that Time, as very Particular Business will require my attendance at Philada next Week, which I engaged to attend before I knew of the Commission. Had I been

informed before the Day fixed, possibly I should have made it suite, so as to be able to have given my attendance, but as Things have fallen out it was out of my Power. However, I hope the General and Mr. McClean are gone up, as in my answer to Mr. McClean I strongly pressed his attendance, and informed him how I was situated.*

I am, Sir,

Yr very h'ble Servt,

JOHN HUBLEY.

JOHN HAMBRIGHT TO V. P. BRYAN, 1778.

Lancaster, Octo 1st, 1778.

Hon[d] Sir,

Inclosed I send you a Deposition taken Before Justice Thomas Hewet, of Northumberland, respecting a Cruel Murder which has been committed; it is suggested to me that Scoby has for three or four years past Claimed a Tract of Land in the Possession & Claim of the Family Murdered—and that he and the others named in the Deposition, live at or near Fort Allen, in Northampton. It is much desired that they be apprehended, that Justice may be done.

I also inclose to your Honor a List of Persons who have joined the Enemy and are gone with them, their Effects are Seized. Council, I make no doubt, will do what is necessary respecting them.

I beg leave to inform the Council that Col. Hartly set off from Samuel Wallis's, in Muncy, with three hundred and odd men on Sunday, the 20th Ultimo, in order to make an incursion on two Indian Towns, lying on the North Branch of Susquehanna, where it is understood that the Enemy have frequently rendevoused. The Expedition, I am in hopes, will succeed to our expectation, as it appears to be well begun, and every Provision well made, and despatched with great Secrecy.

I should have made it a point to be with Council before now, but the long Fatiguing Journey which I have just performed, and at the same time not being in Health has prevented me, but hope to have the Pleasure to be in Philadelphia shortly.

I have the Honor to be the Councils

and your most Humble Servant.

JOHN HAMBRIGHT.

Directed,

The Honorable George Bryan, Vice President of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

* See page 750.

Deposition of Affy Beeth, 1778.

North^{d} Co., ss.

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the peace for the County affs^{d}, Affy Beeth, and after being duly sworn as the Law directs, deposeth and saith, that on a certain Thursday in August, the exact date she does not remember, a certain Charles Scobey came to her House about 7 o'clock in the afternoon and asked this deponent if her Husband was at home, she answer he was not; s^{d} Scoby asked again when she Expect'd her Husband Home, she answered that Night; said Scoby then said, Well I hope he will not come home this Night, for your sake and your children's, he further added, it is a Mercy that he is not at home; then this deponent asked him his reasons, or his Meaning for such Expressions, he answered that he dare not tell by any Means, or if he would he would be scalped or tomahawked like any Indian. Immediately a certain Daniel Lee, Oliver Smith, and a man unknown to this deponent come, upon which they all four withdrew some distance and held a private Conference for about an Hour, after which they returned, and Oliver Smith Comanded this deponent to Get Super for them, after which the sat about the fire and kept a perpetual Whispering, which she did not understand; they then Lay down, and about 3 o'clock in the Morning the Got up and went away, and this deponent followed out and asked said Scoby privately his reasons for such Conversation Last Night, who answered her as before; also that s^{d} Scoby told her that if she Heard any Noise, or Gun shots, not to be afraid, for they would not hurt her; and further this deponent saith the Wednesday before she heard three shots, and about that time the Widow Ulty and her three sons was Killed in the most Inhuman manner, and this deponent saith she has just reasons to suspect said Scoby and his Companions for said Murther, and the Intention of her Husbands death, and further saith not.

her
AFFY ⋈ BEETH.
mark.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 7th day of Sept., A. Dom., 1778.

THO^{s} HEWITT.

John Ralston and others to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

May it please your Excellency,

In Pursuance of your Request, Dated Philada. Sept. 17, 1778, We Have inquired into the Facts set forth in a Petition signed Eve Yoder and Ester Bachman,* in behalf of themselves & others.

And Beg leave to Report that most all the Personal Estates of the Persons named in the Petition was Taken from Them in consequence of an Act of General Assembly, Intituled an act for the further security of the Government, and Likewise their Stores, yet we Learned from the Petitioners themselves, that they have Grain anough for the support of their Families for one year, as their crops of the Last Harvest, both Grain and Hay, was wholly Left them for their own use, but as the seizure was made Just before harvest, Probably some of them Might have been in some want for a few days; Likewise we find that Abraham Geissinger's wife had not a Bed left her although she was Near her Time of Delivery, and also one of the most Necessitous; And that Henry Sell was Robbed of all his Cash shortly before his goods were seized, and is likewise at times somewhat Delirious; That by what we could Learn the sum arising from the sales of said Estates Amounts only to about Nine Thousand Pounds.

We are with Great Respect,
Your Excellencys
Most Humble Servants,
JOHN RALSTON,
PETER RHOADS,
FELIX LYNN.

Upper Sacon, Oct. 2d, 1778.

Directed,
His Excellency George Bryan, Vice Pres't.

Col. Dan'l Brodhead to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Head Quarters, Fort McIntosh, Oct. 14, 1778.

Sir,

The bearer, Capt. Stokely of my Reg't, has recruited a considerable number of Men, for which he has not been paid the full Bounty allowed by our State. The Men are now become very clamourous, and I have been under the necessity of sending Capt. Stokely to get the Money to pay & satisfy them.

* See page 747.

Perhaps Captain Stokely will be under the disagreeable necessity of waiting on the President & Council to enable him to do Justice to the Recruits, Should that be the case I shall be ever obliged to you for giving him such orders to the County Lieutenant for that purpose, as you may think necessary, that no unnecessary delay may prevent his speedy return to his Duty here. I hope you will Pardon the Liberty I have taken in thus addressing you, &

Believe me to be your most obed't serv't,

DANIEL BRODHEAD,

Col. of the P. Reg't.

Directed,

Hon'ble George Bryan, Esq^r.

Lt. Samuel Hunter to Vice President Bryan, 1778.

Fort Augusta, 7th October, 1778.

Sir.

The 5th Ins't Col. Thomas Hartley returned from an Expedition he carryed on against some of the small Indian Towns on the North Branch of Susquehanna, where he was informed there was a party of Indians and Tories assembled, but they being appraised of Col. Hartley's march by a party of Wariors he met coming to the West Branch, whome our People fired uppon and shot their Captain dead, uppon which the Indians fled imeadiately and alarmed the Towns Col. Hartly was bound for, so that they had time to put their familys and chief part of their Effects out of the way before he arrived there, and when he came to Tiaogo, where he took some Tories Prisoners, they informed him that there was a Town called Shamung about ten or twelve miles from there, where there was a Body of Indians, Tories & Regulars in Garrison, as good as six or seven hundred; Col. Hartley after consulting his Officers thought it most Expedient to return back without attempting Shamung, and so after destroying Tiaoga & Shesiken and bringing off fifty or sixty Head of Horned Cattle and some Horses they got there, beside several other articles our People brought with them in Cannoes.

In the mean time the Indians was collecting a party to intercept Col. Hartly on his march to Wyoming, which they accomplished, and fired on our People in front in this side of Wyaloosing, where the Indians had way-lay'd our People among a parsel of Rocks as they were marching through a piece of narrows along the River side, but Col Hartley's People returning the fire briskly made the Enemy give way, and marched but a little ways furder when they

were fired on again in the rear, and after a brisk fireing on Boath sides for some time the Enemy retreated.

It must be acknowledged our People beheaved with Courage and Conduct in bringing off their wounded, all their Cattle and pack Horses; suppose the Enemy followed all the way to Wyoming and scalped four of Col. James Murray's men after they arrived there; as for a more minute account of this Expedition, I refer you to Col. Hartley's own Letters to the Board of Warr & Executive Council. But in the whole it was well conducted considering the number of men that went with Col. Hartley, not above two hundred and fifty, which shows that Officers and men beheaved with spirit in bringing with them five Indian scalps besides several more of the Enemy kill'd. Col. Hartley's loss was seven killed and eight wounded including those that was killed at Wyoming.

As for the Inhabitants of this County they seem very much afraid at present, hearing of such a large Body of the Enemy being so nigh as Shamung, and all the militia that was here from Lancaster County & Berks gone, as their times was Expired, and none here but part of Col. Hartley's Regiment, sixty men of Col. James Murray's Company of six month's men, and about one hundred of our own militia, which is doing duty in several parts of this County, which is no way adiquit to the security of the same, as I am certain the one half of this County is left vacant, and not more than one third of the Inhabitants that lived formerly here, is putting in any fall crop this year, so that Distress & Misery must ensue. If no Continental Troops is ordered up here this fall, nor no militia from other Countys bordering of us, I am afraid a number of those that has brought their familys back will leave the County again.

This Company of Col. James Murray's that was raised for six month's, at present consisting of sixty men, has been in service now better than three months, and has not received any of their pay during that time, complains very hard, and I am certain they deserve their pay as well as any other Company I know in the Continental service. Agreeable to the orders I received from Council, each man that found himself in a good Rifle & Accoutrements was to be allowed Eighty Dollars, this is the footing this Company is rais'd uppon, and all little enough, for they wear a vast quantity of Shoes and Shirts as they are constantly on scouting partys, and is just now come in after being with Col. Hartley on this last Expedition, and beheaved Well which he can assert—there is likewise a number of the militia of this County that has not rec'd pay, as the Paymaster has not got money enough to pay them off.

I am S'r, with great esteem,
Your most obed't humble Serv't,
SAM'L HUNTER, Lieu't.

Directed,

Honorable George Bryan, Esq^r, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

President of Congress to V. P. Bryan, 1778.

Philad^{a}, 7th October, 1778.

Honorable Sir,

Within the present Cover your Honor will find two acts of Congress, viz.

1. Of the 2nd Instant for continuing the present embargo on Provision until the last day of January, 1779, and for divers other purposes therein mentioned.

2. An Act of the 5th Inst, for exchanging with Continental Currency such local Bills of Credit as have been received in the loan office of each State respectively.

I am with very great
Esteem & respect,
Sir, your Honor's
most obedient Serv't,
HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Directed,

To Hon^{ble} George Bryan, Esq., Vice President of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Donaldson, &c., to Joseph McPherson & others, 1778.

Yorktown, October 7th, 1778.

Gentlemen,

We cannot refrain from addressing you on an occasion of great consequence to this County.

The day of Election for choosing our Representatives in Assembly is near, and we would be happy in joining with you in sending members, who are the most capable of doing us service.

The consequence of a good representation is obvious to every one, If the Laws are good and well executed the people are happy. If bad, the reverse is plain, we shall be miserable.

We would wish you would review the Transactions of the Assembly in their late sessions, and we think you will agree with us, that the present members ought to be changed.

By the Constitution it is required that every member should be sworn not to do, or consent to any Act or thing whatsoever, that

shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge the rights and privileges of the people as declared in the Constitution of this State.

In Section the 6th of the frame of Government, provides that every Freeman of the full age of twenty one years having resided in this State for the space of one whole year next before the day of Election, and paid public Taxes during that time, shall enjoy the rights of an Election.

Thus every Freeman of full age, who has resided in the State a year before the time of Voting, and paid the public taxes has the right of Voting.

This right is declared by the Constitution to be unalterable; yet by a late Act, they have attempted as far as in them lay, not only to abridge and alter, but totally to take away this right from all persons who have not taken the Oath of Allegiance before the first of June.

Allowing the propriety of taking from such persons the right of Voting, yet the Assembly were restrained not only by their Oath, but by the Constitution, which makes us think, that this law is not founded on the public good, but made to continue the present members of Assembly in power.

In regard of their frugality it will be necessary to observe, The Chief Justice had formerly £400 ℔ annum, the present chief Justice has £3000. The other Judges used to have each £200 ℔ annum, they now have £1500.

The Attorney General's salary was formerly £75, 'tis now £2000 besides doubling his fees of Office, the Secretary used to have £30 salary, the present Secretary has £1000.

These are some Instances of what the Assembly have done, They have in many others deviated from the Constitution.

We are resolved to give our voice against such Men, as unworthy of representing our County.

We inclose you a list of some Gentlemen which we hope will merit your favour, and we request you may think what we have done is with a view to the Public good, without any other motive.

We are Gentlemen,

with Sincerity your

assured Friends & well wishers,

JOSEPH DONALDSON,
J. HOUSTON,
GEO. EICHELBERGER,
FRED'K. EICHELBERGER,
in Behalf of the Meeting.

Directed,

Col. Robert M^cPherson, & the Inhabit^s of that District.

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